DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 414 062 PS 026 055

| | |
|---|---|
| AUTHOR | Harris, Rosalind W. |
| TITLE | Integrating Family in Social Progress and Development: Implementing Family-Specific Recommendations of Global Conferences of the 1990s. Final Report of the United Nations International Seminar (6th, Vienna International Centre, Austria, November 11-12, 1996). |
| INSTITUTION | Vienna NGO Committee on the Family (Austria). |
| PUB DATE | 1996-11-00 |
| NOTE | 117p. |
| PUB TYPE | Collected Works - Proceedings (021) |
| EDRS PRICE | MF01/PC05 Plus Postage. |
| DESCRIPTORS | *Family Role; *Family (Sociological Unit); Females; Foreign Countries; Global Approach; *Government Role; International Cooperation; *Public Policy; Social Change; World Affairs |
| IDENTIFIERS | *Family Policy; *Family Support; United Nations; 1990s |

ABSTRACT

Family-specific recommendations emerging from six United Nations global conferences held in the 1990s may be seen as an agenda for developing family policies. This report presents the work of the Sixth International Seminar, focusing on how and by whom these policies are to be implemented. The three areas selected for attention are: (1) commitment to work toward providing a stable, safe, and supportive environment for families and other caregivers; (2) commitment to work for greater recognition of the family's role; and (3) commitment to work together in support of national and international plans of action for and with families. Contained in the report are the opening statement, welcome addresses, and a speech by a United Nations Officer from the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The three Expert Sessions contain keynote addresses and a round-table discussion: (1) "Family and Children in All Four Conferences"; (2) "Family and Women in All Four Conferences"; and (3) "Family and Social Development in All Four Conferences." Also contained in the report are the closing statements and detailed outlines for future action stemming from the recommendations emerging from the expert sessions. Appended are messages from international leaders, the 1997 Plan of Action, a speaker list, and list of participants. (KB)

**********
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
**********

ED 414 062

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

# INTEGRATING FAMILY IN SOCIAL PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT

## Implementing Family-Specific Recommendations of Global Conferences of the 1990s

### 6th International Seminar

*United Nations*
*Vienna International Centre*
*11 - 12 November 1996*

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
O Cambrill
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

## FINAL REPORT

VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY

PS 026055



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# INTEGRATING FAMILY IN SOCIAL PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT

Implementing Family-Specific Recommendations of Global Conferences of the 1990s

**6th International Seminar**

*United Nations*
*Vienna International Centre*
*11 - 12 November 1996*

## FINAL REPORT

Organized by the

VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY

with the support of

European Commission

Social Europe

Spain

MINISTERIO DE TRABAJO Y ASUNTOS SOCIALES

Austria

United Nations

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# TABLE OF CONTENTS


Family-Specific Recommendations from United Nations Global Conferences of the 1990s 3

Introduction
*Dennis O. Callagy* 4
Chairman, Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

Opening Statement
*Dennis O. Callagy* 6

Welcome Addresses
*Martin Bartenstein*
Austrian Federal Minister of Environment, Youth and Family 9

*Amalia Gómez Gómez*
Secretary General for Social Affairs
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Spain 11

*Ursula Hillbrand*
European Commission, Directorate General V
Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs, Brussels 13

*Amr Ghaleb*
United Nations, Officer-in-Charge, Subprogramme on Family
Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development 15

"Reflections of Visions and Realities of the Global Conferences"
Family-Perspective Testimonies of Participants of the Four Conferences
*Rosalind W. Harris*, USA 17
*Ann Mannen*, The Netherlands 20

First Expert Session
"Family and Children in All Four Conferences"
Excerpts from the United Nations Recommendations 25
Keynote: *John J. Donohue*, UNICEF, Switzerland 27
Round-table discussion: *Amalia Gómez Gómez*, Spain 32
*Helmut Wintersberger*, Austria 34
*Roserillan S. Robidillo*, The Philippines 40

Second Expert Session
"Family and Women in All Four Conferences"
Excerpts from the United Nations Recommendations 44
Keynote: *Brigitte Döring*, UNOV, Austria 46
Round-table discussion: *Saisuree Chutikul*, Thailand 50
*Kathleen Cloud*, USA 53
*Monika Jaeckel*, Germany 58

Third Expert Session
"Family and Social Development in All Four Conferences"
Excerpts from the United Nations Recommendations 61
Keynote: *Faith D. Innerarity*, Ministry of Social Affairs, Jamaica 63
Round-table discussion: *Drago Cepar*, Slovenia 68
*Sirpa Taskinen*, Finland 70
*Ursula Dörpinghaus*, Germany and
*Marco Aquini*, Italy 72
*Julian Disney*, Australia 75

Closing Statements
*Rosalind W. Harris*, Seminar Rapporteur 80
*Ceridwen Roberts*, Seminar Chairperson 82
*Dennis O. Callagy*, Chairman, Vienna NGO Committee on the Family 84

Presentation of Outlines for Future Action for Families 86
Recommendations for Implementation 87

**ANNEXES**

Canon Joseph Moerman 2

Henryk J. Sokalski 5

Plan of Action of the
Vienna NGO Committee on Family 7

Action Sheet 1996-97 8

List of Speakers 9

List of Participants 12

List of Sponsors and Acknowledgments 20

## Family-Specific Recommendations emerged from Six Global Conferences of the 1990s

1) **World Summit for Children**
New York, USA, 29-30 September 1990

2) **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development**
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-14 June 1992

3) **World Conference on Human Rights**
Vienna, Austria, 14-25 June 1993

4) **International Conference on Population and Development**
Cairo, Egypt, 5-13 September 1994

5) **World Summit for Social Development**
Copenhagen, Denmark, 5-12 March 1995

6) **Fourth World Conference on Women:**
**Action for Equality, Development and Peace**
Beijing, China, 4-15 September 1995

## Members of the United Nations have agreed in Six Global Conferences of the 1990s that:

The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist.

Various Paragraphs were added at one or more Conferences, such as:

Marriage must be entered into with free consent of the intending spouses, and husband and wife should be equal partners.

International Conference on Population and Development Principle 9
World Summit for Social Development Paragraph 80

Strengthen institutions that enhance social integration, recognizing the central role of the family, and providing it with an environment that assures its protection and support.

World Summit for Social Development Commitment 4

The Family-Specific Recommendations may be seen as a global agenda for developing family policies. The question is how and by whom are they to be implemented? The 6th International Seminar contributed to the continuing effort to answer these questions.

## INTRODUCTION

From 1990 to 1996 the United Nations convened 8 Global Conferences dealing with children, women, human rights, environment, population, human settlements, food and social development. All of these included, not only references to families, but underlined the significance of family structures in achieving the goals and programmes proposed by the Conferences. Although there was no inter-governmental conference devoted to the family, the awareness of the significance of family systems developed by the International Year of the Family (IYF) is clearly reflected in the United Nations recommendations.

IYF activities relied heavily on the commitment and initiatives of non-governmental organizations throughout the world. Leading this drive was the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, which organized the Malta World NGO Forum launching IYF in November 1993 to provide a global focus for the Year. Before and since the Malta Forum, the NGO Committee has been responsible for a series of seminars to define family issues, promote action programmes and stimulate cooperation.

This volume presents the work of the 6th International Seminar, **Integrating Family in Social Progress and Development.** Its point of departure was the recommendations from four of the Global Conferences most closely related to family concerns: The World Summit for Children (1990); The International Conference on Population and Development (1994); the World Summit on Social Development (1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995).[1] Presentations and discussions focused on actions to implement these recommendations. Three points comprised the "red thread" of the Seminar:

- Commitment to work towards providing a stable, safe and supportive environment for families and other care-givers.
- Commitment to work for greater recognition of the role of the family.
- Commitment to work together in support of national and international plans of action for and with families.

It is noteworthy that the Conference recommendations in the three areas selected for attention by the Seminar - children, women and social development - are largely similar or complementary. Thus the Seminar was dealing with an emerging global agenda agreed to by the member states of the United Nations.

The papers in each session were presented by an outstanding group drawn from governmental, non-governmental, research and intergovernmental institutions. Each Session was followed by lively and extensive discussions

[1] The United Nations Recommendations are in Compilation of Family-Specific Recommendations of the Global Conferences of the 1990s (available from: Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, Division for Social Policy and Development, United Nations New York NY 10017)

among the 142 participants. These revealed many aspects of family life which are under pressure or changing. All present were concerned to reinforce the strengths that exist; the ways and means to do this vary from culture to culture, continent to continent. This diversity is reflected in the following material.

The Committee regrets that space limitations do not permit reproducing each paper or comment completely. Valuable descriptions and research findings have been omitted in some instances. However, the conclusions and proposals are here.[2] Recommendations made by all participants, in formal addresses, in floor discussion or in written comments have been compiled in a separate section.

The NGO Committee is deeply grateful to all those who made the 6th International Seminar possible. This list includes the hard-working members of the Committee in Vienna as well as their collaborators from abroad who helped to prepare the programme; the sponsors who gave both financial support and contributed to the substance; the gracious hosts at the United Nations Office in Vienna and the City of Vienna; the stimulating and able Chair; the keynote and expert session speakers; the Committee staff and most importantly, all the persons who came from 38 countries to bring life to the formalities of international words and commit themselves to keep family firmly on the global agenda!

[2] Copies of the full texts are available from the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, A-1010 Vienna, An der Hülben 1/15, Austria, Fax: +43-1-512 16 38 75.

## Opening Statement

The welcome addresses and opening statement made by the sponsors and organizers of the seminar not only welcomed and encouraged the participants but also outlined significant family programmes within their own departments.

### Dennis O. Callagy
### Chairman, Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

As Chairman of the Vienna Committee on the Family, it is indeed a great pleasure to open this 6th International Seminar and to extend a warm welcome to all the many expert participants from around the world. Although we had originally planned for 80-100, we are delighted to see such a resounding response from 142 participants from all continents.
Perhaps it is not the title that attracted your attendance: indeed, not the flashiest or catchiest. Our previous Seminars, dating back to 1987 were more provocative; among them the themes: **The Family - a Marginal Group as the Basis of Society?** and **The Family - A Threat to the Freedom of its Individual Members?** or last year's Seminar focused on **Action and Issues Beyond IYF**. Today's meeting is quite different from the World NGO Forum in Malta launching the Year.

Nevertheless your attendance confirms the importance of the substance and timeliness of our task. The idea can be blamed on George Puthuppally, currently Special Assistant to the Director General of the United Nations Office at Vienna. At the conclusion of last year's Seminar when George was in the process of closing operations at the UN-IYF Secretariat, he suggested we organize an expert group meeting to start where the international community's attention and commitment is and to focus on implementing recommendations affecting families adopted at the Global Conferences. Under the time and financial pressures it was a daunting challenge and we are all the more pleased to have attracted such a solid slate of expert speakers and such a resounding international response in your attendance.

Despite the transfer of the United Nations Subprogramme on Family to New York - or rather because of it - our Committee and Executive Secretariat have continued action and operation to ensure that the family momentum, lobbying and focus are sustained. This includes servicing a broad international network of some 1,500 family-related organizations which came together out of IYF and continue to express growing interest in the long-term process of family promotion sparked by the Year. We feel strongly that the process must continue.

Let me express deep gratitude to the supporters and contributors to this Seminar, in particular the responsible Ministries of Austria and Spain, represented by the Minister and Secretary-General respectively, as well as

the European Commission, Directorate General V, and the United Nations Subprogramme on Family. I wish personally to thank Mr. Bartenstein, Mrs. Gómez Gómez, Mrs. Hillbrand and Mr. Ghaleb for the invaluable financial support of your institutions, as well as your own personal support, evidenced by your availability to address us here this morning. Secondly, our thanks go to our gracious and long-standing hosts at the United Nations Office at Vienna, in particular the NGO Liaison Officer, Mr. Znamensky and Mr. Puthuppally for all your efforts to make us feel at home, and to the City of Vienna for kindly hosting our reception this evening at City Hall.

I would like to especially welcome Mr. Rolfe of the International Family Policy Forum, whose continued support, advice, encouragement and cooperation adds greatly to the success of our work and to the sense of accomplishment we derive thereof.

As our efforts are carried primarily by behind the scenes and volunteer efforts, permit me a last word of deep appreciation to those few persons who have accompanied our Committee on its way over the past 10 years, in particular Mr. Schattovits, currently Director of the Austrian Institute on Family Research, who was a founding Board Member and served as our Secretary and even Chairperson.

Furthermore, I have been asked to share two messages from long-standing partners who could not be here. The first is from Canon Joseph Moerman, the first Chairman of our Committee, who is prevented by sudden illness from coming. He had prepared a statement entitled "Towards an Effective Seminar" (see Annex 1). He has asked me to quote the section on assistance to Rwanda.

Secondly, those of us who were deeply involved in IYF will be pleased to hear that Henryk J. Sokalski, Assistant Secretary-General and currently Special Representative of the Secretary General to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, has sent a message (see Annex 2).

As to our Seminar programme, I believe it is largely self-explanatory and enormously challenging: exploring realistic proposals for putting family recommendations into practice. IYF and the Global Conferences have shown that the crucial questions of social development are also family questions: among them, partnership, the role of fathers, child and dependent care, sharing responsibility between men and women, youth, unemployment, education of girls and boys, parenting skills and parental leave, paid and unpaid work and the harmonization of employment and family life.

We look forward to the outcome of this meeting to be disseminated widely and provide impetus of concrete support for families and family-friendly societies. If families are indeed the basic unit of society, they must be enabled to play this role. Although the capacities and resilience of families are highly underestimated, families cannot be expected by themselves -

especially with current reductions in social services in many countries - to provide the best environment for the care, protection and growth of healthy citizens. After all, as old folk wisdom says: The strength of a nation is as strong as the strength of its families. Our contributions to this process can be considerable.

I now have the pleasure of introducing our Chairperson, Ceridwen Roberts. She was strongly recommended by last year's Chairperson, Joanna Foster, as the two worked closely on the United Kingdom Committee for IYF. I first heard of her from John Ditch, Coordinator of the European Observatory on National Family Policies who described her as "well-placed in the political policy process in her position as Director of the United Kingdom Family Policy Studies Centre and her years of experience in family promotion and she would certainly have the competence and authority" John said, adding "besides that she's simply a great chair, if you can get her". How lucky we are to have her and how pleased I am to turn the ship over to a most able Captain, Ceridwen Roberts and to wish all of us a most fruitful expedition on concrete implementation for and with families. Let us make it happen!

## Welcome Addresses

### Martin Bartenstein
### Federal Minister, Environment, Youth and Family Affairs, Austria

It is a great pleasure for me to continue a long tradition begun and continued over the past years by my female predecessors as Austrian Family Minister in welcoming the international participants to the International Seminars on family issues organized by the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family.

Indeed Austria attaches enormous importance to the role and functions of families in society - on the international, national, community and grassroots levels. Families are considered main contributors to the beneficiaries of the development process.

Besides other essential values nurtured and transmitted in families, such as tolerance, mutual respect, caring and sharing, solidarity is of crucial importance in today's society, as it goes beyond the limits of the individual family - from families to families and community - but also beyond the borders of our country.

Indeed, Austria believes it is not enough to be concerned about the well-being of Austrian families and takes seriously its potential contribution in promoting social progress and development internationally with a special family focus.

Within the scope of follow-up activities to the International Year of the Family and as an incentive for international cooperation and exchange of information on family issues, Austria offers a one-week Visitors' Programme to study model family benefits and family services in Austria, which is open to one representative - governmental or non-governmental - each from Africa, Asia and Latin America. This was held for the second time this past October with, we believe, great interest and success.
Moreover, on both the international and grassroots levels Austria's moral and substantive support for the NGO Executive Secretariat for the International Year of the Family was a demonstration of our country's commitment to a global promotion of the family as a basic unit of society and of our appreciation of the essential work of NGOs as advocates and mobilizers of a pro-family movement.

Family is the basic unit of society and family well-being is an essential precondition of sustainable development. In the light of the great challenges of mankind at the dawn of the next century, family policy has its own place in the sphere of social policy. In the score of individualization of social policy, it has been seen that it is the family, as a unit, which cares for its members and

which transmits social and cultural values to the next generations and needs to be strengthened.

Family concerns were of essential importance at all the Global Conferences of the 1990s. It is the responsibility of family policy at the local, national, regional and international levels to protect and support families to fulfill their various functions, especially by:

- Helping the family in its supporting, educating and nurturing roles
- Meeting the needs of families and their individual members, especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members, with particular attention to the care of children
- Eradication of poverty and securing an adequate standard of living
- Promoting equal partnership between women and men in the family and in society
- Reinforcing the interrelationship of family well-being and sustainable development

Further, I am convinced that this meeting will be a valuable source of new partnerships, impetus and action for and with families in the future.

Let me welcome you wholeheartedly to Austria and wish you most pleasant and successful exchanges. May your valuable work for families and all their members grow ever stronger.

**Amalia Gómez Gómez**
**Secretary General for Social Affairs**
**Ministry for Labor and Social Affairs, Spain**

We have come a very long way but that is an important reason for going on. When Malinowski and Morgan studied the family, they knew they were studying the roots of society. Whatever model is looked at - African, European, Mediterranean, Asian, American - it is seen that each culture has its own way of organizing the family. The important matter is the links among members, old people, young people, children, disabled people, people with jobs, people without jobs.

I am to speak about children and I would like to tell you what I think are the tasks we must face in the future. It is very important to look for the points we have in common instead of looking for the things which may separate us. We have a responsibility to do this.

First of all, I wish to say how deeply moved we are by those families in Zaire which are suffering the disasters of war. On behalf of Spain and the Spanish delegation, I would like to express our solidarity with them because families and children are suffering the worst. So I recall the first right of people, which is the right to live in peace.

Secondly, I want to say that we must fight, struggle and make efforts for better education. Because education is the best instrument to promote the principle of the equality of rights. Family and education are very closely linked. Education does not end at the school but continues in the family. This is one of the situations modern society is not facing correctly. In school children are taught of peace, tolerance, solidarity and then at home they see violence and all the worst values in the mass media. We must work for and maintain a society based on values.

Poverty is a very important risk for families because it is not only the lack of needed things but it also creates a lack of self-respect. When self-respect is lacking it is impossible to attain goals and to believe in the possibility of the future. It is very important to do prevention and also we must improve techniques for dealing with the state of mind of people in poverty.

There are no frontiers to the rights of the family. We must promote, discuss, help, to defend the rights of families as they concern us all, more than countries, cultures and religions.

It is very important to increase the legal framework around the family; not only at the national level but it is essential to go down to the regional and local administrative levels. If we spend our time discussing, analyzing and diagnosing without looking at what happens in the local areas, we will not be useful. So we must make this important effort.

Furthermore, we also cannot forget that women must attain their rights. This will go more quickly in some countries and in others more slowly. We must have the possibility of being people who work and people who have a family. Family is not an obstacle to the equality of women. The obstacles are often the rules, laws, customs in each country. Family is very important and we must know how to defend it best.

**Ursula Hillbrand**
**European Commission, Directorate General V**
**Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs, Brussels**

Thank you very much - it is quite difficult to say anything new after the very good speeches of my predecessors - I am not going to repeat any of them as I totally agree with the contents and am very grateful for the issues mentioned. I wish to thank the organizers and others involved for the initiative of this important Seminar.

Research says that even when there is no explicit family policy in government programmes or international institutions, it is there anyway. Wherever policy areas have a family dimension, whether direct or indirectly impacting families or some of their members family policy is made. This is true for many governments as providers of services or legislation in the areas of justice, finance, education, economy or many other areas which initiate social schemes. It is also true for the European Union which never had an explicit European family policy. We are analyzing the situation of families in the member states, and the European Observatory produces an annual report on this subject. We plan to report more on the situation of children in those families.

However, in its thousands of directives, agreements and recommendations to the 50 member states, the European Union indirectly is having an important impact on the situation of families especially those living inside the Union, and also those outside the Union. Therefore, it is crucial to examine and elaborate the family dimension in all related policy areas to detect this so-called indirect family policy. Once this is analyzed it is possible to turn back to the originators and ask "Was this effect really intended?", "Was one aware of these consequences and why?" and so a discussion of family policy can actually start. We know that governments, after evaluating effects, can be quite surprised by outcomes of certain policy measures which may consequences not originally intended.

The task you have given yourself today and tomorrow is very important. You as key actors in the field will be able to examine the family dimension in the recommendations of the four conferences; as you probably already are doing in the national context. A real discussion can start on whatever the results will be and that is when real political work will start which involves the task of lobbying. Family issues are typically part of the horizontal policy requiring the energy to examine the family dimension in the recommendations of these conferences just as it is one of the tasks of the European Union to examine the family dimension of European Union policies in the different areas of employment, housing, new media, education just to mention a few. The framework agreement on parental leave which has been negotiated by the social partners is a concrete example. As another example, regulations on the scope of the information society, including TV without frontiers, need to be examined.

NGOs are very important in this whole process, to identify the gaps, and then to start the dialogue with policy-makers. This also has been recognized by the Commission and an NGO platform was established in the preparatory work for the Social Forum which took place beginning of the year in March. Now the aim is to have a more stable dialogue established among several NGOs and the Commission especially on social affairs. There are NGOs active or represented who work in the area of family, older people, children and other social fields, such as poverty, which has been mentioned. It is especially important in the area of family policy which does not always seem to be the top of the agenda.

One has to be particularly careful with the new renaissance of the family nowadays that is evolving in some countries. In some cases it seems to justify less action or even budget cuts and loads even more burdens on the already fragile fabrics of families. It is very important to have a more integrated and holistic approach, as you have been showing, so that not just a mere shift of burdens is executed which in the end produces more costs and damage for governments and for families.

In conclusion I wish you a very successful and fruitful Seminar and I am looking forward to the results.

**Amr Ghaleb**
**Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Subprogramme on Family**
**Department of Social Policy and Sustainable Development, New York**

The international community, in its search for a new integrative approach to development, witnessed seven international conferences in the 1990s. These seven global conferences extensively covered family issues in their agendas, plans and programmes of action. In discussing family issues the conferences start from the basic premise that the family is the basic unit of society and the family is at the vortex of concerns for sustainable development. The conferences reinforce the interrelationship between family well-being and sustainable development. They recognize the entitlement of the family to the widest possible protection and support.

The significance of the global conferences are many: they affirmed the objectives of the International Year of the Family; they created a greater awareness of the value of a family-sensitive perspective in development planning and policy implementation; and they provide for an effective IYF follow-up through the implementation of family provisions and dimensions of the various Global Programmes, Agendas, Platforms and Declarations which emanated from them.

Activities relating to the follow-up of to the IYF have been integrated into the work programme of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. During 1995-96 the Secretariat, as the focal point within the United Nations system for family matters, continued efforts to consult and cooperate with Governments, the NGO sector and other IYF partners. In its efforts in this regard the Secretariat is signing soon a Memorandum of Understanding with the Slovak Republic concerning the Bratislava International Centre for Family Studies. We are also working very closely with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Environment, Youth and Family Affairs on the Visitors' Programme for studying exemplary family benefits.

The Secretariat is in the process of developing an inventory of best practices on family policies. We initiated it and are facilitating an exchange of information on the subject. In this connection we shall be working very closely with many partners and many governments, in particular the Government of Austria. The Secretariat continues to work very closely with the International Family Policy Forum, the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family and the New York NGO Committee on the Family.

We have initiated some research studies and are looking into the following research: communication technology and its impact on the family; multiple roles of women and the impact on family; national coordinating committees on the family. This is in collaboration with several partners, to name just a few: the International Federation for Parent Education, the International

Federation for Training and Development, the Centre for the Study of the Global South and the Centre for Family Studies at the University of Akron.

We are distributing circular letters called "Family Matters" to Governments and NGOs. The United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities is also at the disposal of Governments and concerned NGOs. At this moment we have funded about 12 projects in Rwanda, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, and a few others.

**The future of the Secretariat, as I see it, is as follows:**

a. We shall provide policy guidance to Governments to strengthen family-centered components of development policies and programmes. Here the focus will be on processes as well as issues. I am a very strong advocate of a focus on process. We have many issues we can deal with and many of us should deal with our own issues. But I think if we look at process and focus on the strategy that is not divorced from issues but focuses mostly on processes, we can succeed in making the family programme at all levels a success.

b. The Secretariat will also integrate the family focus into the Commission for Social Development multi-year work programme for 1997 - 2000. I would like to see a global family report produced in 1998.

c. I would also look at organizing sub-regional meetings on family policies, which I think is the best way to go. I would like to see an inter-regional meeting after the sub-regional meetings are held in '97 and '98. An inter-regional seminar culminating from the Global Report and the sub-regional meetings would submit its conclusions to the Commission of Social Development in the year 2000. In that way we combine issue and process in an integrated manner.

d. We shall continue to facilitate, disseminate and exchange ideas and experience on family issues among our many partners and reinforce networking with them.

e. We shall utilize the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities resources to support salient initiatives from all partners concerned and I would encourage you to submit credible, viable projects.

For all this to happen, we have to work together.

## "Reflections of Visions and Realities of the Global Conferences"

Family-Perspective Testimonies of Two Participants of the Four Conferences.

**Rosalind W. Harris**
**International Social Service, USA**

I am supposed to mention visions and I think that the vision behind all these conferences is stated in the United Nations Charter "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

I shall give a brief survey of where we have come from and how we have come there in the past 50 years. But the culmination for us today, and it is the springboard for our actions, are four of the seven conferences of this decade, the '90s. We must recall that all these conferences have a history, they have predecessors, whether they are in the field of environment, population, transfer of science and technology, (an underlying theme in all of them) and they are the result of years of discussions in other fore, drafting of other resolutions, declarations, conventions. All of this came about because the international community was grappling with the concept of development. These conferences were taking up different aspects of development. From our point of the view the focus came with the World Summit on Social Development, which brought together a great many of these themes.

Development is another word for change. Change is difficult for people; and people are at the heart of our concern here, whether they are individuals or in family groups or in community groups. Changes that the conferences dealt with were not only the material world around us such as, more food, better housing, universal education, more health services but also with the human relationships that are at the base of the family unit. This is the trickiest problem of all for an international meeting of government delegates both to discuss and come to conclusions about. But they have tried. We are here to see and reflect on the recommendations which have come out of all this work.

We shall talk about the cross-cutting issues that came out of these conferences. I think maybe one of the most important and one that is causing the greatest amount of activity has to do with women. The changes in the situation and status of women throughout the world are enormous. I was a part of the four conferences which dealt with women and I can assure you that the difference in the concerns and the attitudes which we heard in Mexico City in 1975 and those we heard in Beijing last summer showed an amount of change that is quite startling. There is a long way to go for many women. They still have many problems but they have shared experiences, they are moving in many directions and all of that, of course, has a tremendous impact on family relationships.

The other major category of persons who have been the focus of attention are, of course, children. We have had a Summit for Children. We have a Convention on the Rights of the Child which is distinguished by the fact of having more ratifications than any other United Nations document, other than the Charter itself.

These are two essential elements of the family unit. I think what we miss is any explicit focus on the rights and responsibilities of men. In the NGO community, and elsewhere, there are attempts to look at this and relate it to other concerns. It is typical of United Nations resolutions in the whole field of development to include a phrase stating that the provisions apply to women, to children, to youth, to the disabled, to the aging; the only group left out is middle-aged men. I think it could be assumed that the Social Summit, which paid a great deal of attention to employment, did have in mind men and their economic contribution to the family system. But again they are not really mentioned, somehow they are left out.

The other major element of all discussions is the need for an "enabling environment" which, among other aspects, can be translated as "peace" which we do not find in the world today. The member states call for peace, not violent resolution of conflicts, but they seem to be incapable of creating the actual conditions. Despite this people move forward with an attempt to make life better, although it is counter-balanced by the great number whose conditions are made worse every day.

I should mention another very explicit condition, the global epidemic of HIV/AIDS, which comes up in every discussion and was included not only in these four conferences but in others which have taken place. It is a current contemporary issue that was not featured in any of the predecessor conferences.

Another point is to remind you that the global conferences are convened by and their outcomes reflect the consensus of governments. It is important to recall that whatever has been recommended has, by and large, the consent of 185 governments. These days it is important to know that they can agree upon certain social policies. But rarely are these at the cutting-edge of new ideas or new approaches. That is where all of us come in. I think that governments must reflect what their constituencies want, and we must make the base from which they can move sharper, more focused and clearer for the actual policies that we need. The recommendations are largely addressed to governments at all levels. They will say national governments should do this, the United Nations should do that and it is always "should do." To what degree the governments do it is what concerns us and the ways and means of getting them to implement their commitments and their proposals is something which, in a colloquial phrase, it is up to us to keep their feet to the fire. They have made commitments, they have said that certain things should be done and we know they are not doing them. We have to propose the real

ways and means of getting these things done. And that is what we are here today to do.

One of the first things which I believe we can always do is to review the actions of governments, their laws and regulations to see whether these are harmful to families. Before we start to propose new laws or policies to strengthen families, let us identify those which are making it difficult for families to function. In my own country there are many we can start with.

Another activity that we must encourage, because it comes out strongly at all conferences, is more research, more information and wider distribution of the findings of research; done in a way and a form that people can use and understand. In languages that can be used at all levels.

Without commenting on the recommendations, that is your job, you are the experts, who know how these ideas can be put into place, I recall that the world has billions of people and almost every one has some association with a family in some form. Whether it is to take care of children, to take care of older members, or to have fun together, one way or another we all have a family connection. Sometimes it is a very small family and sometimes it is a very large family, but all of us are affected. We just want to have the governments help us "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

**Ann Mannen**
**Bahá'í International Community, The Netherlands**

Empowerment of the family starts with mainstreaming family issues at all levels of decision-making. The 20th century has been marked by numerous upheavals, revolutions and radical departures from the past. On the other hand there have been positive processes.

Scientific discoveries and new social insights have spurred many progressive, social, economic and cultural transformations. Both processes - the collapse of old institutions on the one hand and the discovery of new ways also influenced families world-wide. Families are part of society, like cells are of an organism. The dynamics of society are reflected in the dynamics of its elements. The links between social, structural and political violence, and violence within the family are logical to assume. Effective efforts to create violence-free families require partnership between men and women. This includes sharing of decision-making in a spirit of love and consultation.

When women are denied equality and respect in the family, men and boys develop harmful attitudes and habits which they carry into the workplace, into political life and ultimately into international relations. For this reason, to secure women's basic rights, also within the family, men at all levels of society need to play a more active role in preventing gender-based violence.

> Changes in both men's and women's behavior are necessary conditions for achieving the harmonious partnership of men and women. Men play a key role in bringing about gender equality since in most societies, men exercise preponderant power in nearly every sphere of life.
>
> International Conference on Population and Development

Agreement has been made regarding parental responsibilities, that in all action concerning children the best interest of the child shall be of first importance.

It is because of the lobbying of NGOs and other actions that violence in the family is on the international agenda and in the series of Conferences has been recognized as a violation of human rights. Some governments have translated international charters and amendments of the different documents into legislation, preventative measures and rehabilitative measures.

**Definitions of empowerment**

The family, as the most basic unit of society, can be revitalized through empowerment.

A beautiful definition of empowerment comes from Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University:

Empowerment is not something that is conferred from outside. It is a process of learning about the core values and qualities which lie within and how to use them. It also involves inner growth and development - changing our state of mind more than the state of affairs - since the greatest limitations are those we place on ourselves. The real surrender of power has taken place on a mental or spiritual level, rather than just physical, and so it is on this level that empowerment must first take place. We have learned to acquire, accept and live by powerlessness, and each one of us must now learn to re-acquire that inner power which is the source of lasting social, economic, technological and political change.

**Another definition**

An empowered family provides security, love, affection, shelter, comfort, stability, self-esteem, education, a sense of responsibility and fulfillment. It also provides the material, physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of its members.

In an empowered family, children are raised conscious of the needs of the society around them and are willing to behave altruistically within the limits of their capacities. This is likely to be one of the most effective long-term remedies to a range of social problems, including poverty and violence in the family.

**Gender equality and the empowerment of families**

Gender equality is of crucial importance for the empowerment of families. In a balanced well-functioning family the principles of equality of women and men are internalized. In an empowered nation, women participate equally in all areas, thereby mainstreaming the family issues at all levels of decision-making. "The full emancipation of women will not only make possible peace on the planet, but it will enable families to end the cycle of abuse. That is why we are pleased to discover that the contributions of women, the importance of the role of women and the empowerment of women have been a red thread throughout the series of United Nations Conferences since 1990."

What can we learn from the contributions of NGOs to the mainstreaming of family-related issues?

The girl child was a critical area of concern in the Beijing Platform of Action, thanks to the effective and professional lobby of NGOs active in the fields of women, children and human rights. Some of them are also members of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family. Because of this coalition the specific needs and rights of girls were recognized at the Human Rights Conference in Vienna in 1993. With their strong visible networks, they started action on the girl child at national and regional levels.

At the Regional Meeting in Dakar in preparation for Beijing, African women strongly pressed for inclusion of the girl child in the Platform for Action. A half year before the 4th World Conference on Women, at the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, the girl child was introduced as a new area of concern in the Platform for Action. They could mainstream the girl child at the international level because their policies and strategies and action were complementary to policies at regional, national and grassroots level and vice versa. They also had a strong vision. Girls of today are the women of tomorrow. The skills, ideas and energy of girls are vital for full attainment of the goals of equality, development and peace. This example of mainstreaming the issue of the girl child at all levels of decision-making can be an example of how to mainstream family-related issues.

If we empower families, it will affect all humanity. If humanity is not empowered, it will affect families. This is important also for us as NGOs. If we are empowered, we can contribute to the empowerment of families and nations. As for the family, our foundation must be unity, equality and mutual respect instead of power-seeking.

We can mainstream family-related issues from four perspectives: deficit, difference, discrimination and diversity.

It often happens that NGOs and policy makers do not understand each other because they speak from different perspectives. We must know from which perspectives we speak and understand the perspectives of each other and that of policy-makers.

**Perspective of Deficit**

Education is the key to overcoming deficit. The major result of the conferences is the realization of this, that education is the key to the empowerment of women and girls, and therefore, also of families. If family members overcome deficit, they can equally function within and without the family, and they feel equally valuable regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religion, etc.

In the Netherlands, the Government creates conditions through which parents can overcome their deficit in knowledge and skills in education and caring for children. Families are supported and advised in fulfilling their basic functions. If these basic functions are threatened, more and more the Government is actively taking a hand.

Unfortunately, policy-makers have a deficit in vision about the importance of healthy, empowered, well-functioning families. Policy is too often focused on dysfunctioning families. A well-functioning family can become dysfunctional rapidly because of the fast changing processes in society. It is important that policy-makers know how to keep families well-functioning and that policy-

makers and experts also listen and learn from families which are functioning well.

**Perspective of Differences**

The different concepts of "family" received much attention in the Conferences and sometimes led to disputes and differences of opinion. There is a recognition of the rights of different thoughts, religions and beliefs and of the world's diversity. These differences can enrich families, and all of us, but at this moment they are the root cause of much violence within and outside families.

Therefore, I am happy that beginning with the Human Rights Conference these differences have been anchored in human rights, that is, differences can enrich us and should be respected as long as they do not harm others. In this way no one is shut out, exploited or discriminated against.

A precarious development in the Conferences was the intolerance of lobbyists, governments and NGOs for each others concept of the family, the goals and functions of families, parental responsibilities and inheritance rights. Sometimes individuals and groups who were pro-family were named "fundamentalists" and on the other hand some NGOs and government delegates considered the 4th World Conference on Women to be a conference against motherhood and the family.

In order to be worthy to look into the "eyes of a newborn", it is important to stay in dialogue with each other, to be allies with each other and to search for allies, to stay open for new concepts, ideas, skills and beliefs which can contribute to well-functioning families. The greatest danger is the threat of fundamentalism in various forms. Fundamentalism starts when we stop asking questions.

**Perspectives of Discrimination, Human Rights and the Family**

United Nations Conventions on Human Rights have strong legal dimensions, but should also be related to individual rights in the family, to promoting loving and united, well-cemented family relationships. If we can learn this at home, the impact will reach beyond and affect society as a whole. The programme of action includes the importance of the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and protection of all women and children against all forms of violence. No amount of legislation will protect families unless there is a willingness to impose sanction on those who violate the laws.

**Perspective of Diversity**

The perspective from a vision of diversity is more or less an integration of the viewpoints of deficit, difference and discrimination. It means we equally share knowledge, learn to appreciate differences and promote inclusion. It is the

result of a transformation process, starting in the family and spreading throughout society, recognizing world citizenship, moral/ethical education, with the development of a new concept of leadership within the family as the result. The principle value is recognizing the oneness of humanity.

The perspective of diversity stresses the acceptance of the interdependence of all people. This implies the renewal of every social institution on the planet, including the family. To mainstream family-related issues at all levels of decision-making from this perspective, the transformation of attitudes within families, cultures, system and structures of society is important.

To integrate this perspective of diversity at decision-making level, we need to develop common values world-wide to stress virtues like tolerance, trustworthiness, justice, respect for others and the need to combat discrimination and prejudice.

A universal campaign for moral and ethical development can encourage and help local initiatives all over the world to incorporate the moral and ethical dimension into the education of the young. This will bring about the celebration of diversity world-wide, starting in the family.

## FIRST EXPERT SESSION
## Topic: "Family and Children in All Four Conferences"

> The family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children from infancy to adolescence. Introduction of children to the culture, values and norms of their society begins in the family.
>
> World Summit for Children Paragraph 18

### Excerpts from United Nations Recommendations

**World Summit for Children**

We will work for respect for the role of the family in providing for children and will support the efforts of parents, other care-givers and communities to nurture and care for children, from the earliest stages of childhood through adolescence. We also recognize the special need of children who are separated from their families.

Declaration Paragraph 20(5)

And the most essential factor - the provision to families of the information and services necessary to protect their children - is now within reach in every country and for virtually every community.

Paragraph 36

**International Conference on Population and Development**

All States and families should give the highest possible priority to children. The child has the right to standards of living adequate for its well-being and the right to the highest attainable standards of health and right to education. The child has the right to be cared for, guided and supported by parents, families and society and to be protected by appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sale, trafficking, sexual abuse, and trafficking in its organs.

Principle 11

Governments should assist single-parent families, and pay special attention to the needs of widows and orphans. All efforts should be made to assist the building of family-like ties in especially difficult circumstances, for example those involving street children.

Paragraph 5.13.

**World Summit for Social Development**

To achieve a healthy and safe working environment, remove exploitation, abolish child labor, raise productivity and enhance the quality of life requires:
(e) Designing labor policies and programmes to help eradicate family poverty, which is a main cause of child labor, eliminating child labor and encouraging parents to send their children to school through, inter alia, the provision of social services and other incentives.

Paragraph 55

**Fourth World Conference on Women**

Formulate policies and programmes to help the family in its supporting, educating and nurturing roles with particular emphasis on the elimination of intra-family discrimination against the girl child.

Paragraph 285(a)

**Keynote**

**John J. Donohue**
**Director, Regional Office for CEE-CIS and the Baltic States, UNICEF, Geneva**

In reviewing the Global Conference of the 1990s, one can see that a common thread through them all is the centrality of the role of women and support to women clearly visible in Cairo and strengthened in the subsequent Copenhagen and Beijing Conferences. These recommendations support major improvements in the lives of women that can only lead to more capable families confronting the difficulties that they face throughout the world today. Added to this is growing recognition of families as a unit of support itself. The World Summit for Children made a strong commitment to the role of the family in providing for children and supports the efforts of parents, other care-givers and communities to nurture and care for children. The Convention on the Rights of the Child outlines the obligations of Governments, the international communities, local communities and the family. The Beijing Declaration states the equal sharing of responsibilities for the family of men and women and a harmonious partnership between them is essential for their well-being and that of their families. The Cairo Conference placed emphasis on the importance of men's shared responsibilities for their sexual and reproductive behavior and their roles in community and family. And it is this aspect of family life - the role of males and fathers in term of achieving gender equity and thereby creating stronger families - that I wish to focus on in my presentation today.

The traditional family, in which the man was regarded as the economic provider and the woman as provider of emotional care to children is no longer as common as many used to think in much of the world. More women are becoming economic providers for families, in many cases the sole economic provider and, therefore, many men no longer have exclusive province in this regard.

We also now know that many unions between men and women have dissolved, and even in those cases where men and women do exercise their responsibilities as father and mother together in the same family, it is increasingly common that families can no longer survive on the income of only one family member. Around the world, men still exercise disproportionate political authority and, therefore, often decide how resources devoted to family welfare are to be used, but there are also many other men who, through underemployment or unemployment, have lost their traditional role in the family.

We now recognize that the role of males in families needs to develop new dimensions if they are to contribute significantly to improved health and education for their children, make more equitable the role of women, and improve in a sustainable way the stability of family life.

As quoted in the Platform for Action (Chapter 1, The Mission Statement) of the *World Conference on Women in Beijing*:

*A transformed partnership based on equality between women and men is a condition for people-centered sustainable development. A sustained and long-term commitment is essential so that the women and men can work together for themselves, for their children and for society to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.*

In a world where women have assumed increasing economic, as well as social and emotional responsibility for the welfare of children and families, men need to be able to develop a new identity that includes a greater sharing of nurturing, care-taking and economic support roles so that women are not overburdened and men can be proud of their roles as fathers.

Recent evidence has suggested that many of the development goals of UNICEF and many governmental and non-governmental partners will not be achieved or sustained unless men and boys are more fully involved and their role in family well-being is better understood. As a topic of research and programme development, the role of the male in the family decision-making and as a caretaker of children has been largely overlooked, and has only recently become a focus of inquiry.

*UNICEF's Innocenti Global Seminar* on "Achieving Gender Equality in Families: The Role of Males", held at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica in May 1995 was an important step in broadening the discussion of the male role in achieving gender equality in families in my own organization. Much of what I have to say today comes directly from the report written by John Richardson on the meeting itself.

**An Exclusive Focus on Women is Not Adequate**

While little research has looked into exactly what men do, it has been assumed, and in many cases it is clearly evident that they have not been doing all that they might to support the women and children in their lives. It is also clear that men have actually been causing many of the problems. Men have been the principal perpetrators of violence against both women and children, they have made political decisions hat either have not taken into account the rights of women or have actively worked against them, and they have often fathered children that they were subsequently either unable to support or simply refused to support. Moreover, men have had access to power, resources, education and opportunities that women for the most part have not. While women have made some significant gains in certain parts of the world, and have entered the work-force in greater numbers than ever before, the majority are still trapped in poverty, with increasing economic responsibility for their children.

**The Male Role in Family Life Has Not Been Well Understood**

As more research has been carried out on families, it has become obvious to some demographers and development specialists, that the male's role in family and community decision-making, in influencing the nutritional and psycho-social development of children, and in sharing financial responsibility for family welfare has been crucial, but not well understood. It is also clear that local and regional cultural and economic factors that determine the dynamics of family and community gender roles vary greatly.

Men's preferences for the use of family income and their opinions appear to influence families' immunization coverage, postnatal care and treatment of neo-natal tetanus, use of *oral re-hydration therapy* (ORT) and support for breast-feeding, to name just a few areas of direct impact on the health of mothers and children. In general, men's lack of support for women results in a disproportionate share of responsibility for the family care falling on women. That lack of support in many cases comes from the cultural assumption that women will automatically carry the workload and care for the children, and is one that men and women need to examine if it is to change.

An important finding of studies conducted on different family situations around the world is that as a family gets poorer, the proportion of male income devoted to the family remains constant, while that of women actually increases. Being a mother will in the future be the most important factor in determining the poverty status of women and their children unless men begin to share the economic and social responsibilities for their families more equitably. Now there is increasing realization that gender equality can only be achieved by also looking at the structural divisions of labor between men and women, and the roles they play in families. Either involve men, or progress toward gender equality, stronger families and social development will be limited.

**Families Are in Transition and Women Now Assume Increasing Economic Responsibility**

The rising cost of living and the disturbing effects of rapid urbanization on families have had a profound impact on how the family functions and how gender disparities have developed. There is an increasingly high level of marital dissolution in less developed countries and rising divorce rates in the developed world.

Women all over the world now contribute increasing shares of the family income. To cite the results of just a few studies: in Ghana, women are the primary earners in 33 per cent of the families surveyed; in Thailand and Nepal, women contribute 50 percent of family income; in Peru, women are the primary earners in 29 per cent of urban households and 32 per cent of rural households; and in the Philippines, women's share of income exceeds that of men by 10 per cent. Women also work longer hours on average than men,

largely because so many now combine roles as income earner and primary care giver for children.

While demographic studies of certain trends that influence women and families have been undertaken, there remains a lack of information on certain other aspects that are now seen as critical to an understanding of how new forms of families function and how gender roles develop. Data are usually collected on households and not on families, and therefore do not account for the diversity of family situations commonly found now in many countries. In a growing number of case, as well, family members do not all live under the same roof. There is also little information available on step-fathers and other men who play a parenting role in the absence of the actual father.

Women's fertility and mothering has been well documented, but much less understood are women's work and their productive contribution to family welfare. Male fertility and parenthood have been virtually untouched by research in developing countries, and thus the general concept of men and their roles has not included fatherhood. Little is known about children's actual living arrangements, family functioning or the dynamics of intra-family roles and relationships. The majority of research has focused on women and is not often desegregated for boys and girls (although data are now increasingly desegregated for men and women). However, we all are well aware of the high price girls pay in too many places where they are excluded from education early and frequently are confined to the household to care for siblings, while brothers study and parents work. There has been very little work on either the man's role within the family as care giver or role model for children, and even less on how men in the large community influences child development.

**Limited Data Have Revealed the Importance of the Male's Presence as Father in Child Development**

The limited data that have been gathered are beginning to suggest some trends, however, and some indication of both the positive and negative impacts of the father on children and family. It is reported that mothers tend to be the primary or sole support of families, even when the father is present, if he is unemployed, has children and partners in other households, is expected to make major contributions to sisters and other women in his kin-group, is disabled, is drug or alcohol dependent, or withholds income for personal reasons. When fathers are not in residence with their children, they do not feel that have a role other than as provider. When they are no longer able to demand the respect their role once entitled them to based on gender alone, their attachment to and responsibility for children diminishes.

The father's influence on child development is far-reaching, however, and we know that there is a greater role for the father beyond that of economic provider. Father do play with children and assume a protective role toward child and family. The father's participation in child care tends to be more

equitable when both he and the mother cooperate in economic activities, but in a number of countries this cooperation is hampered by cultural beliefs which assume that caring for children is not an appropriate role for a father or by mothers' inability to accept the father as a care giver.

When fathers are involved in a close and supportive relationship with their children, the results can be seen in improved cognitive development and performance at school. Engle's studies conducted on children in Guatemala and Nicaragua revealed that when the father's money was contributed to the family, children were better nourished and grew more than when just the mother's income could be relied upon. By contrast, when fathers are absent or neglectful, children suffer.

While little is understood about the actual details of the father's involvement in family decision-making in different societies, it is becoming clear that when the father is present in the family he often plays a key role in decisions that affect the well-being of the children. In one study conducted in the United States, where there is a higher awareness of women's rights than in many countries, researchers found that in those families where men reacted favorably to the prospect of their wives breast-feeding their children, almost 100 per cent of them did so, but the figure was closer to 25 per cent when the men did not give their support. In the Philippines, to cite another example, a study revealed that only 14 per cent of mothers acted alone in making decisions about treating the respiratory illnesses of their children.

I close citing the comments of two participants at a consultation on men in families held in UNICEF New York in 1994:

> *Understand that men, as well as mothers, give meaning to children's lives...*
>
> Janet Brown, University of the West Indies

> *... and that children give meaning to men's lives.*
>
> Patrice Engle, California Polytechnic

When these two ideas become reality in the millions of households where this is not the case today, family life for those human beings will be transformed.

We have seen that the recent series of global conferences have strongly supported the role of girls and women in order that the world has more equitable, just and democratic communities and societies and stronger families. We have also seen a growing emphasis on the family itself emerge and how, if families are to be strengthened, one must also directly address the need to drastically improve how men relate to their own families if gender equality and strong support to children by both parents are to be realized.

**Round-table discussion**
**Amalia Gómez Gómez**
**Secretary General for Social Affairs**
**Ministry for Labor and Social Affairs, Spain**

Looking through the past international conferences and thinking about family and children, we feel that society still demands some answers. In the first place we must redesign educational policies, and families cannot be passive observers of how their children are educated. This is very important because all the academically designed curricula are not enough to make our children free and responsible citizens. It is very important that NGOs and representatives of governments consider the possibilities of introducing opportunities for families to take part. Not in the compulsory subjects but in the complementary subjects. I do not mean in organizing the educational centers but somehow participating in the education of our children. It is necessary to introduce values into education that serve family purposes. These are the same purposes which serve society and mankind: I mean freedom, I mean the importance of work, accepting pain, fighting for happiness and also being generous with people of other cultures; always trying to understand other people's point of view and understand and use the word dialogue.

It is urgent to consolidate strategies that help women to go to work. Not only political strategies such as providing kindergartens and nurseries but also through information campaigns showing that family and work in the home concern all members. We must understand that roles have changed because the economic and labor structures of countries have changed. This means that men and women are equal by birth because we are persons. This means that when we engage in work and professions and it does not necessarily mean we abandon attention to the family. Because there are bonds which link family relations.

Also it is very important to adopt special measures for the protection of children, especially children from poor families with very little economical income. We can not forget that education is the best instrument to promote equality of rights. We have to ask governments and NGOs to design programmes so poor children from poor families may obtain a good education. For psychological and pedagogical reasons we must avoid destruction of the family. It is also very sad to see that some families are destroyed by economics. This is not just if we really believe that the future of countries is a future of freedom and a future of social justice.

Also we have to find ways of cooperation and paths of understanding to prevent illegal adoption of children and illegal trafficking of women and children which is an expression of the failure of social and family policies. We cannot really permit the making of artificial families through illegal trafficking and buying of children. This has an international dimension and for that

reason we must make efforts to bring an end to this awful and disgusting reality.

Then we must remember that sterility in family life requires efforts and compromise from the society and governments to apply measures that save the principle of the equality of rights. Coeducation must be, and has to be a very important instrument.

I also want to recall that the key roles of father and mother depend on the situation of the couple in society. For instance in my case, my husband has the key role because I have been working outside the house for 25 years. But I have my role as mother and I imagine there are hundreds or thousands of other examples. The roles do not mean that the strong one is the more important role - the one who has more time plays that role. We have to accept that the change of roles does not mean that family is a failure - because it is not true. We have to generate measures from government, from the smallest structures of administrations upwards because sometimes the programmes, the activities, the ideas do not get to the real bottom of societies. That is the material place where we have to work.

Last of all I wish to underline that policies and programmes related to families can not ignore older and disabled members who are part of families. We want programmes to make living easier for those people because, as I said, the future of mankind is only the way of family. Also I want to say that integrating family into welfare is not exactly right, because the process of welfare must start in a healthy, different, plural family that believes in itself as a structure of society that, from free will, becomes a group of people that is going to live their lives together.

**Helmut Wintersberger**
**Director, Programme on Childhood**
**European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Austria**

Early in this century, Ellen Key had declared the 20th century the century of the child. Unfortunately, her prediction did not come about. However, shortly before the end of the century children and childhood are gaining increasing attention and recognition by lay people and experts, researchers and practitioners, governments and NGOs, national and international bodies. In my view the turning point was brought about on November 20, 1989 with the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Therefore, we might call at least the 90s the decade of the child, and hope that the next century might become a century of the children.

**The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**

The United Nations Convention is the first international document taking up the question of human rights for children in a comprehensive way. While the Charter of the United Nations forbids any discrimination according to gender, race, religion, etc., but not according to age, the Convention on the Rights of the Child extends, in Article 2, the same anti-discriminatory regulations from adults to children, but does not mention age either. In doing so it rightly approaches the problems of discrimination e.g. between boys and girls, poor and rich children, of children with a disability and children from minorities. However, it neglects the main dimension of child discrimination: the discrimination between children and adults. This might be seen as a weak point of the Convention. However, in Articles 12, 13, 14 and 15, it introduces quite a number of civil rights contained in the Human Rights Charter for children, e.g. the freedoms of thought, expression and association and in doing so, children are recognized for the first time as legal subjects and citizens.

A close look at the Convention on the Rights of the Child suggests that the individual articles lie within five principles: survival, development, protection, provision and participation.

A closer look at the content of the Convention suggests reading the individual articles in the light of the five principles of survival, development, protection, provision and participation. Safeguarding the survival of children is a challenge in particular in zones of conflict and violence as well as in the poorest countries of the world, where basic nutrition and medicine are not available for everybody. Development refers to the right of children to grow up in a society offering positive development perspectives; this might be understood as an appeal for a better distribution of resources world-wide as well as at the individual level a request for respecting the right of a child to develop his/her full potential. It is visible that enforcing the principles of

survival and development is a primary task for a number of developing countries. However, recently also children in some areas of Europe are experiencing similar situations.

As for highly industrialized countries it is indicated to concentrate on the three Ps:

- **Protection**: the right to parental and professional care; the right to be shielded from certain acts and practices (social and individual forms of child abuse)
- **Provision**: the right to possess, receive or have access, to certain resources and services; the distribution of the resources between the generation of children and adult generations; resources available or "children at risk"
- **Participation**: the right to do things, express oneself and have an effective voice individually as well as collectively; social space and practices for active participation of children; due recognition of children's role in the social division of labor.

Providing basic minimum standards of nutrition, education, health and social security, and protecting children from war, torture, economic exploitation and sexual abuse are noble aspirations not only for developing countries, but also for advanced welfare states. However, the most revolutionary part of the Convention is about participation; because in those articles the child develops from an object (of provision and protection) to a subject, an actor and a citizen. In this sense, the Convention is oriented towards the 21st century.

While the need for protection emerged in the wake of industrialization, and provision of resources and services became an item with the expansion of the welfare state, the implementation of children's participation is still a project which is ahead of us. Quantitatively, the text of the Convention also reflects this state of affairs. However, it would be wrong to assume that participation will make protection and provision redundant. Children's access to material and immaterial resources is an essential prerequisite for their participation in society, and from there it will be necessary to reformulate the principle of protection.

**The Five Conferences**

Five conferences in the 90s recognize the United Nations Convention as relevant and references to it may be found in the respective final documents:

The *World Summit for Children* would probably not have been held in 1990 without the previous adoption of the Convention in 1989. Therefore, the Convention occupies a central space in the documentation of the Conference. Reference to it is made in both the *World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children* as well as the *Plan of*

*Action for Implementing the World Declaration.* The World Declaration recognizes in the Convention a new opportunity to make respect for children's rights truly universal (Paragraph 8); in addition it contains a commitment to promote earliest possible ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Paragraph 20). In the Plan of Action the appeal to ratify, disseminate and implement the Convention constitute the first and most prominent item of the specific actions (Paragraph 8).

The other four Conferences were either dedicated to other population groups (women) or general/sectional issues (human rights, population and development and social development). But the Convention on the Rights of the Child was referred to explicitly or implicitly several times, and thus the central place of the Convention in tackling children's issues was confirmed.

The *Vienna Conference on Human Rights* and the related *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action* recognize the relevance of the Convention. Paragraph 21 reads: "The World Conference on Human Rights, welcoming the early ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by a large number of States and noting the recognition of children's rights in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and development of Children and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children, urges universal ratification of the Convention by 1995 and its effective implementation by States party through the adoption of all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures and the allocation to the maximum extent of the available resources. In all actions concerning children non-discrimination and the best interest of the child should be primary consideration and the views of the child given due weight." National and international mechanism and programmes should be strengthened for the defense and protection of children, in particular the girl-child, children with special needs and children at risk.

*The World Summit for Social Development* and the *Copenhagen Declaration* address children's issues in two ways (Paragraph 39):

- (a) Promoting family stability and supporting families as nurturers and educators of children; (b) Promoting social support, including good quality child care and family friendly working conditions; and (c) Supporting and involving family organizations and networks, may be interpreted as preventive strategies for protecting children and youth in general.
- Children at risk, i.e. children in especially difficult circumstances, including children in areas of armed conflict, street children, abandoned children, children addicted to narcotic drugs, refugee children, abused children, etc. are addressed in Paragraph 39(e).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child or individual articles of the Convention are invoked several times in particular in connection with children at risk.

The *Cairo Conference on Population and Development* included in its *Programme of Action* Principle 11 which reads: "The child has the right to standards of living adequate for its well-being and the right to the highest attainable standards of health, and right to education. The child has the right to be cared for, guided and supported by parents, families and society and to be protected by appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sale, trafficking, sexual abuse, and trafficking in its organs."
Special reference is made to the girl child (Paragraphs 4.15., 4.17. and 4.21.); to male responsibilities and participation (Paragraphs 4.24.-4.29.); as well as to the family, its roles, rights, composition and structure (Paragraphs 5.1.-5.6.). Particularly interesting is objective 5.2.(c): "*To promote equality of opportunity for family members, especially the rights of women and children in the family.*"

Also the *Beijing Declaration* and *Platform of Action* place particular emphasis on the girl child. It contains a plea to:

- eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child
- eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls
- promote and protect the rights of the girl child and increase awareness of her needs and potential
- eliminate discrimination against girls in health and education
- eradicate violence against the girl child
- strengthen the role of the family in improving the status of the girl child

*Rio Agenda 21: Children in Sustainable Development* contains Paragraph 25.14. which reads: Governments should take active steps to "promote primary environmental care activities that address the basic needs of communities, improve the environment for children at the household and community level and encourage the participation and empowerment of local populations, including women, youth, children and indigenous people, toward the objective of integrated community management of resources, especially in developing countries." This is one of the rare cases in which emphasis is placed on the principle of participation enshrined in the Convention.

Throughout the history of the United Nations there is not another international convention in the area of human rights which has been so widely accepted by the member states as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Two months after its adoption it had been signed by 61 Member States. The 20th ratification, a prerequisite for the Convention to enter into force, was received in September 1990, in time for the World Summit for Children. Today, six years later, almost everybody is happy with the emphatic reception of the Convention, which has been signed by almost all countries on this planet (some 185 States). In principle, this is a very positive development but we should be somewhat suspicious too. To some extent the extraordinary acceptance of this document by governments might find another explanation: governments thought they actually would not commit

themselves substantively by signing and ratifying this document. Therefore, the value of the Convention for Children has still to run out, and in this connection the process of implementation has to be monitored very carefully.

**Conclusions**

All five Conferences in the 90s recognized the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as relevant and in the respective final documents references to it may be found. However, all Conferences were conferences of adults and the final documents reflect an adult-centric bias. While the World Summit for Children held 30 September 1990 in New York addressed children directly, the other four Conferences were either dedicated to other population groups (women) or general/sectional issues (environment and development, human rights, population and development, social development) Therefore, in the final documents children are addressed mostly in an indirect manner. Participation, the fifth principle enshrined in the Convention was hardly mentioned in the final documents of all five conferences.

Nevertheless, implementing the recommendations concerning children, as contained in the five documents, would be a major step forward. Therefore, the task for the remaining few years in this century is twofold:

- meeting the child-specific targets and objectives agreed to in the five conferences;
- raising the awareness of the role of children, their needs but also their contributions in respect to both family and society, to the level of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This means in particular:

**(1) with view to the conceptual dimension**

- overcoming the prevailing adults perception of children and childhood and developing a child perspective and a child focus in theory and practice (including research, statistics, indicators, education, social services and policies);
- recognizing the subjectivity of childhood, and children as subjects and actors, accepting children as partners in the family, as well as extending two-partite negotiations on childhood between the State and the family to three-partite negotiations between society, parents and children themselves;
- finding adequate balances between the five principle enshrined in the Convention, in particular between protection and participation;

**(2) with view to the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a whole**

- to proceed from preaching to practice, or from the number of ratifications to the quality of the implementation. This includes also better dissemination of the Convention to communities, families, teachers and other child professionals, as well as to children themselves.

To conclude, let me refer to an earlier statement made by Amalia Gómez Gómez about families and adapt it to children: In modern societies of today children are often seen as a burden, a nuisance, an obstacle or a problem. However, the problem is not the children but the rules of society. There is a need for a transformation to a child-friendly society in which children are seen as a resource and allowed to participate as full members of society and as citizens.

**Roserillan S. Robidillo**
**Director, International Catholic Child Bureau - Asia**
**The Philippines**

A variety of factors interplay in the abuse and exploitation of children, and as such one cannot blame poverty alone. Factors like economic disparities, dysfunctional families and communities, consumerism, domestic violence, abuse, harmful traditional practices, corruption in the government and lax laws among others contribute to the growing exploitation of children. Moreover, a considerable number of individuals in our societies contribute to the problem. This includes family members, community elders or leaders who help perpetrate the abuse through apathy, silence and self-preservation.

Faced with a problem with such magnitude, it would be helpful to go down to the basics, to situate ourselves back to our families and communities and from there re-discover ways that can assist us in a journey out of the maze.

Where development processes are concerned, it is a given fact that no one can work in isolation. Top-down approaches have more negative effects than positive. Partnerships, however, based on equality and respect do and will work if given the chance to blossom. But this means a process or an "environment" should be promoted to make it possible.

The basic assumption to this kind of linkage is based on the fact that we are all stakeholders, and contributions coming from all sectors are equally important in the development process. On the issue at hand, it goes without saying that children, their families and communities are primary stakeholders and as such they should be considered as *active participants*, not objects, but co-actors in matters that concern them.

Our role, therefore, is to be able to mobilize society at large to affect policies that support and protect society's core, the family. To this end, governments (national and local) should consider seriously the initiatives for implementation present in the communities.

These recommendations are largely based on the experiences of ICCB-Asia and its partners in the field (mainly in the Philippines, Thailand, Japan and Taiwan). They are not complete, but it is our hope that these will provoke an even more lively and practical discussion of recommendations concerning children and their families.

**Recommendations for Implementation**

**1. On participation**

The full participation of families and communities at all levels (diagnostic, design, implementation, evaluation) of the interventions must be ensured to secure for families and communities the control and real ownership of programmes and projects. Without ownership it is impossible for projects to flourish.

**2. On accompaniment**

The following steps are necessary: Develop enabling processes (continuing education) for families and communities that duly respect their cultural and spiritual traditions:

a. Conduct community workshops and dialogues between and among the men, women and children on issues of relevance to them (e.g. gender sensitivity, sexuality, listening skills, children's rights and responsibilities, attitudes of men towards children and women and other topics). I would like to mention the girl child issue which, as has been suggested, should have a specific focus. But let me warn you that we should also look into the boy child. Without it I do not think that we will move forward because if we want to change attitudes, if we want to change men's attitudes, we have to start with the children and that includes the boy child. A healthy dialogue between the sexes should be encouraged to change the old notion that ventilating "emotions" is primarily a women's preoccupation or need. Social activities or enabling processes should also be conducted where children are *not only seen but also heard and listened to.* That would mean giving them responsibilities. Children have rights, but we ought also to give them responsibilities to increase the self-esteem of the child either through peer education or making them responsible for certain projects within the community.

b. Conduct workshops on capability building, productivity enhancement and developing marketing networks to make parents gainfully employed in order to avoid child labor. Governments should encourage community cooperatives and should find all possible ways to make the products of the communities compete and find markets for the products.

c. Train children/youth elders and parents to become community animators and thereby develop a *community support system* that will:

- Help families and communities discover and articulate social or cultural factors that make families survive in spite of adversities and be able to build upon them.
- Develop advocacy and public awareness campaigns that will nurture a sense of understanding and support for the child "victims" of abuse or exploitation and avoid stigma and branding. I have awful experiences on

this. We have been trying to help children recover from the experience of prostitution. But once they go into the communities, it is very hard for them to get their feet back again because communities would normally say "You were once a prostitute so inevitably you will always be a prostitute". So I think it is very important to work with the communities to erase that stigma. Furthermore, we shall initiate and strengthen-community based programmes like alternative livelihood projects, which I have mentioned, with a solid marketing base.

3. **On children and families needing recovery and healing support** (specific to children who have experienced abuse)

Recovery or healing programmes should never be limited to child-caring institutions or NGOs, alone. Families and communities *should be part* of the recovery process to ensure the smooth reintegration of the child back to the community and the family. Thus in the same manner, families and communities should also be involved in enabling processes to better equip them in *journeying* with the child. This may be in the form of *family days* or other similar family- and community-based activities where families:

a. Can discuss and understand how an abuse occurs and what are its effects on the child (inevitably understanding the inner world of the child). Again at this point I would like to confront the argument that most of the problems of children are psychological problems. This is not so: they are psycho-social problems. It is not only the child who has a problem but it is the community, it is the society, it is us.

b. Participate in their own and the child's healing or recovery process through the use of non-threatening strategies (e.g. creative expression or art therapy).

4. **On legal issues surrounding abuse**

The slow litigation or promulgation of cases involving abuses against the child is a growing concern for NGOs involved in this type of work. No recovery programmes will ever be effective if justice is not served. As children would put it: "It is so hard to feel safe if you still see the abuser roaming around freely." Justice is part of the recovery/healing process. Without it, recovery is quite impossible.
Furthermore, the justice system should change the procedures in hearing children's cases especially those of sexually-abused children. As it is, the way the court handles such cases aggravates furthermore the trauma the child had gone through. We are faced with very insensitive prosecutors and judges whose main concern is to get "accounts" from "clients" and "to be able to argue well in court".

The proposal, therefore, is to adopt strategies that are child-friendly. Examples:

- In getting accounts from children, it should be in the presence of an individual the child trusts (e.g. parent, friend, psychologist etc.).
- Employ creative means in getting facts - in sexual abuse, for example, we can use tools like the anatomical dolls or the use of paintings and drawings to help the child illustrate what happened.
- Litigation may be conducted in the confines of a room not a courtroom where people's demeanor traumatizes a child even more.
- Train more prosecutors to make them child-sensitive.
- Establish juvenile courts where they are absent.

**5. On tapping the media**

Media, depending on how it is used, can be an ally or an enemy. To become an ally, media should also take upon themselves these concerns as media concerns. Because no matter how you look at it, the media has greatly impacted the lives of our children and their families.
Media should be encouraged to take part in life-sustaining programming and advertising that promote and respect human and positive cultural values. Moreover, without impinging on the freedom of the press, families can also form "watch dog groups", to lobby against the media producing materials that corrupt and degrade human life, especially that of women and children.

**6. On the language terms we use**

We advocate the use of the term "prostituted children" rather than "child prostitutes", because no child really wants to be in that situation. Let us not use the word "rehabilitation" because some children say it is rather punitive. They feel like they are behind bars and people beat them up. So "rehabilitation" is a no-no for them. Instead, let us use "recovery" or "healing."

## SECOND EXPERT SESSION
## "Family and Women in All Four Conferences"

> Equal rights, opportunities and access to resources, equal sharing of responsibilities for the family by men and women, and a harmonious partnership between them are critical to their well-being and that of their families as well as to the consolidation of democracy;
>
> Fourth World Conference on Women:
> Beijing Declaration Paragraph 15

## Excerpts from United Nations Recommendations

### World Summit for Children

We will work to strengthen the role and status of women. We will promote responsible planning of family size, child spacing, breastfeeding and safe motherhood.

Declaration Paragraph 20

(c) The reduction of adult literacy by half, with emphasis on female literacy,...
(e) Increased acquisition of knowledge, skills and values through all educational channels, including modern and traditional communication media, to improve the quality of life of children and families.

Plan of Action Paragraph 20

### International Conference on Population and Development

Countries should act to empower women and should take steps to eliminate inequalities between men and women by: (g) Making it possible, through laws, regulations and other appropriate measures, for women to combine the roles of child-bearing, breast-feeding and child-rearing with participation in the work-force.

Paragraph 4.4.

The equal participation of women and men in all areas of family life and household responsibilities, including family planning, child-rearing and housework, should be promoted and encouraged by Governments.

Paragraph 4.26.

**World Summit for Social Development**

Foster policies that enable people to combine their paid work with their family responsibilities.

Commitment 3(f)

Developing a more comprehensive knowledge of work and employment through inter alia efforts to measure and better understand the type, extent and distribution of unremunerated work, particularly work in caring for dependents and unremunerated work done for family farms or businesses.

Paragraph 64(b)

**Fourth World Conference on Women**

Analyze, from a gender perspective, policies and programmes - including those related to macro-economic stability, structural adjustment, external debt problems, taxation, investments, employment, markets and relevant sectors of the economy - with respect to their impact on poverty, on inequality and particularly on women; asses their impact on family well-being and conditions and adjust them.

Paragraph 58(b)

Encourage men to share equally in child-care and household work and to provide their share of financial support for their families, even if they do not live with them.

Paragraph 107(c)

**Keynote**
**Brigitte Döring**
**Deputy Director**
**United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division**
**Focal Point on the Status of Women**
**United Nations Office at Vienna**

As the Focal Point on the Status of Women for the United Nations Office at Vienna, I try to ensure that women are given fair consideration in all appointments and promotions and are not unduly affected by resource reduction measures. Through my work as Deputy Director of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, I am also involved in the Organization's work in the area of violence against women from the criminal justice perspective.

The United Nations played a pioneer's role in the development of a growing body of legal instruments and in the increasing acceptance of administrative measures and social practices that seek to meet women's needs and to advance their rightful position in society. The United Nations Charter was the first international agreement to proclaim gender equality as a fundamental human right.

The Platform of Action agreed upon in Beijing stresses that its implementation is the responsibility of governments with the help of international organizations, NGOs, individuals and the private sectors. It charged the United Nations with the dual task of main-streaming the gender concerns in all programmes and coordinating gender-related activities throughout the system. In order to assist him in these tasks, the Secretary-General designated Ms. Rosario Green as his Special Advisor on Gender Issues[3]. He also proposed the establishment of an inter-agency committee to ensure proper coordination and action by all components of the United Nations system with the following tasks:

- Integrate the Platform for Action in the Organization's programmes;
- Main-stream a gender perspective into policies and programmes;
- Monitor progress achieved within the United Nations system;
- Ensure progress at the national level in implementing the Beijing Platform of Action;
- Provide assistance to countries that need help in realizing their commitment; and
- Improve the status of women within the United Nations system.

In March the Secretary-General presented the Economic and Social Council with a *Revised System-Wide Medium Term Plan for the Advancement of Women 1996-2001*, which is a framework for implementing the Beijing Platform for Action. The Platform emphasizes the importance of national

[3] Ms. Rosario Green has been replaced by Ms. Angela King

strategies as an essential ingredient to ensuring implementation, emphasizing that Governments should develop comprehensive implementation strategies, including targets and benchmarks for monitoring progress. To date, 19 National Plans of Action have been received by the United Nations. In order to promote the formulation of national strategies in Eastern Europe, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Government of Romania held a regional conference in early September to prepare guidelines to assist governments in developing national strategies.

*The Commission on the Status of Women* will hold intergovernmental conferences over the next four years to explore in depth each of the 12 critical areas of concern in the Platform:

1997: Education and training of women; Women and the economy; Women in power and decision-making; Women and the environment.
1998: Violence against women; Women and armed conflict; Human rights of women and the girl child.
1999: Women and health; Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; Initiation of the comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action;
2000: Comprehensive quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action and other emerging issues.

Conferences on women in poverty and women in the media have already been held. The United Nations held a Conference on Political Decision-Making and Conflict Resolution and the Impact of Gender Difference in early October in Santo Domingo. The conference examined gender differences in men and women participation in decision-making in the areas of peace, security and conflict resolution in terms of setting priorities influencing the content of decision and the outcome of negotiations, managerial style and working climate.

Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council this year by the Commission on the Status of Women included an agreed conclusion on child and dependent care, including sharing of work and family responsibilities. The main lines of action were suggested in order to reduce the burden of family responsibilities on women and bring about the sharing of responsibilities. It covers recognizing change; increasing the role of men in family responsibilities, changing attitudes and stereotypes; adapting the legal system; adopting and promoting a family support policy and encouraging reconciliation of family and professional life for women and men; developing research and information exchange and promoting change through international cooperation.

The Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality held its first session in New York 22-23 October and agreed on a programme of work which includes:

- Identification of gender-related policies requiring attention and collaboration;
- Development of performance indicators for monitoring progress;
- Establishment of guidelines for best practices in mainstreaming gender policies in the work of the United Nations;
- Identification of obstacles to progress;
- Proposal of practical approaches to implement the Platform for Action in the United Nations.

An ACC Task Force on Enabling Environment for Economic and Social Development will incorporate the parts of the Platform for Action for eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment and for enhancing social integration, all of which were the focus of the World Summit for Social Development. The gender perspective recognizes that close attention must be paid to the negative consequences of gender inequities in poverty, the importance of technology transfer in economic development and the importance of science in development, including the development of women.

In the time available it is impossible to report on all the activities in the secretariats and programmes of the specialized agencies. An example is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) located in Vienna.

Two of its departments have appointed focal points to advance progress in the recruitment and advancement of women professional and technical staff. All departments are seeking women scientists as consultants and experts, participants in workshops, seminars, training and fellowships and are taking affirmative action to increase the number and level of women staff members.

International workshops were organized with the objective of informing women of the beneficial uses and applications of nuclear energy; an informational package to address women's concerns relating to nuclear issues is being developed and will be published on the Internet; many of the contracts in the Research Contract Programme are designed for women as end-users, such as diagnosis and management of female cancers and osteoporosis, nutritional studies of women and children, agricultural production techniques, and food preservation, in the area of technical cooperation consideration is being given to refining criteria for project selection by setting specific goals to enhance the involvement of women.

The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) has completed a study on the role of women in drug abuse preventive education in the Mediterranean countries and produced a video with case studies of a female leader in drug control, a woman drug abuser and a non-drug abusing women who suffered from the consequences of drug abusing family members. A special issue of its *Bulletin on Narcotic Drugs* was devoted to the gender perspective of drug abuse. It continues to include a gender perspective in its national rapid drug abuse situation assessments; drug

research; in the ESCAP drug abuse and HIV prevention project; technical cooperation and grants to NGOs and other organizations.

The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme is in the process of elaborating a plan of action aimed at the prevention and eventual elimination of violence against women. Its aim is to present a comprehensive set of measures that will serve as a model for States' reform in upgrading the "fair treatment" response of criminal justice systems and their officials to violent crime perpetrated against women and girls and in ensuring the security and safety of females in the home, in institutions and in society at large. Toward that end, measures include enabling criminal law and procedure, law enforcement and judicial review, criminal sanctioning and rehabilitation of offenders, as well as victims' rights. They also address awareness-raising and preventive education. I might add that the role of the family in this connection would be one of education and consciousness-raising about the problems associated with violence against women.

The two programmes in Vienna with which I am most familiar collaborate intensively with international and national NGOs. In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that without the active involvement of NGOs the many action plans and resolutions produced at global conferences, in intergovernmental legislative bodies and at the national level would be impossible to implement.

The United Nations has come to rely on you to think globally but act locally where the United Nations has neither mandate, competence or resources. NGOs are uniquely placed intermediaries to stimulate and sustain local efforts in many areas of concern to the United Nations and its members.

## Round-table discussion
## Dr. Saisuree Chutikul[4]
## Senior Advisor
## Office of the Prime Minister on Women's Affairs, Thailand

My presentation has two parts. The first deals with recommendations related to the implementation process; the second covers some of the actions already taken, based on experiences in Thailand, and could be considered as recommendations related to the area of the family.

It is not uncommon to find many governments doing practically nothing or doing very little after the elaborate verbal praise for the usefulness of the world conference and after the eloquent expressions of commitment given by the heads of delegations. This, to put it strongly, is a part of the world game that it must be done nicely in order to live up to the expectation of the world community. Seriousness of purpose and the intention to keep promises are pushed into the background because the attitude is: if we don't do it, so what?

There usually is no official record of commitment to be used, plus then the commitment is not legally binding. There is no sanction and no monitoring system that has any influence on the need for actions. Thus, it is not surprising to find a publication by an NGO in New York indicating that a year after Beijing, not much has happened around the world related to the almost 500 plus recommendations in the Platform for Action.

Governments must be honest in their commitments and establish self-monitoring systems. I think the NGOs can help tremendously by monitoring governments' implementations and their effectiveness.

The second problem is that government cabinets come and go, so there is no continuity. The civil servants also come and go. Related to this is the misunderstanding of many of us that all government offices are homogenous. In reality, one office commits itself to a certain policy while another office might not, even though they are under the same government. Or worse yet, strategies among various offices to reach the same goal might be in conflict because of self-interest.

When the problems are multi-dimensional and longer term (and most social problems are in this category), combined with the aforementioned situations, a multi-organizational approach and coordination of efforts will help sustain the continuity and lessen or iron out the conflicts that may occur.

The third area of concern for implementation is that government will not be able to accomplish most of the objectives alone. Active participation from the

---

[4] This paper contains information about programmes in Thailand. Copies of the full text are available from the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, An der Hülben 1/15, A-1010 Vienna, Austria, Fax: +43-1-512 16 38 75.

people (whether they be children or youth, men or women, the disabled or disadvantaged or the elderly) and from NGOs is required. In any cases, the private business sector and other socio-cultural groups should also be involved.

**Actions taken in Thailand**

First, the national mechanism or focal point was established. The National Committee on the Family includes representatives from: all sectors of government; academia; private business and companies; mass media; NGOs, including religious organizations.

The first work of the Committee was to stimulate all organizations and the public to ask questions and to ponder the importance of the family. Using all forms of mass media, we have transformed family issues and development, which earlier was the focus of interest of a handful of people, into public issues and public concern, and captured the public interest and involvement.

We organized many workshops and seminars, attended by men and women across socioeconomic classes and geographic areas to work on National Policies and Plans for the Development of the Family. The Plan includes the meaning of "family" in Thai terms, the desirable characteristics of the Thai family and problems related to: raising children; relationships between spouses; structure and character of the family; elderly members; roles and responsibilities; law and social services. Major action programmes and projects also identify resources needed. Thus we have identified and have agreed on the national policy and direction, on the priorities and actions to be taken up on the family at least to the year of 2001. The National Plan of Action on the Family cannot work in isolation; it has links to the National Plan for Women in Development and the National Plan for the Eradication of Prostitution of Women and Children.

**Other actions which relate to women and the family**

Rural Thai women work in the family as well as in the agriculture field where they are considered as unpaid family workers. The women now desire to improve their self-esteem, to feel more useful to society and would like to become more independent economically and socially. In many villages savings and loan funds were initiated, organized and managed by women themselves.

As rural and urban women have to work more for economic reasons, campaigns for changing roles of fathers are undertaken to help Thai men, who are very different from men in the Western countries, to realize their importance in sharing family and household responsibilities.

Considering the socio-cultural problems of Thai society where men frequent prostitution houses (therefore the problem of HIV/AIDS for wives and

children) or men having minor wives, it is imperative that we work on various actions related to attitudinal and value changes.

We plan to produce pamphlets on topics related to family relationships: between spouses; with in-laws; with the elderly members, children, siblings, etc. These will be distributed to young people, those applying for a marriage license and newly-weds.

We are also working on modifications of the penal code, family law and employment regulations to eliminate gender discrimination. Last month Parliament modified the law on prostitution to decriminalize girls, boys and women but increase the penalties on pimps, proprietors, clients and those who lure victims into prostitution. There are proposals to:

- Delete a clause of the penal code that justifies marital rape;
- Equalize conditions for both spouses in divorce suits;
- Revise property laws.

Actions are being taken to improve and provide more counseling services, with special attention to violence against women and children. Other actions focus on marginalized hard to reach groups: street children, family-less children, child laborers, and illegal immigrants who require innovative programmes as conventional means are not effective.

I deeply believe that those of us who work on and for human beings - especially the family - have to be compassionate, believe in the goodness of humankind, full of love and believe in what we do. That's why the family logo of having a heart under the roof is so meaningful to us in Thailand.

**Kathleen Cloud**[5]
**Director, Office of Women in International Development**
**University of Illinois, Champaign, USA**

*The question: "What do women want?"*
*The answer: "Full and equal partnership with men in all aspects of society."*

Women, using the various conference documents and the *United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women*, have created an explosion of public policy activity in both civil society and government institutions. Non-governmental organizations are running hundreds of programmes, delivering credit, health care and family planning, technical training and resources. More importantly, they are organizing women to work on their own behalf.

Why is it that, suddenly, after centuries of silence, there is this great burst of women's energy released in public settings throughout the world?

I would argue that we are part way through an enormous transformation in human history; that the changes in women's lives and voices are both cause and effect of larger processes at work in the world which affect everyone. Economically, socially and politically, the world is becoming smaller and more interdependent. Productivity is rising as technologies become more sophisticated, and environmental pressures escalate as the population explosion interacts with a worldwide revolution of rising expectations.

As half the human race, women are inevitably both agents and subjects of change. I believe there are really two types of international women's movements:

- One type is public and social, happening in organizations and networks.
- The other is a private and personal movement which is happening in families and intimate settings.

Change in the world has been rapid but uneven. There are four times as many people in the world as there were in 1850. It is not that people are having more children; on the contrary, birth rates and death rates have both come down substantially. One major cause is that happy fact that both adults and children are living longer, 15 to 30 years longer than a century ago.

Death rates dropped first in Europe. Because at independence developing countries were able to draw upon the accumulated technology of vaccinations, sanitation and wonder drugs, death rate changes in the developing world, though later, have been faster.

Birth rates came down more slowly than deaths in most countries. In every region of the world, women have begun to reduce their fertility. Because so

[5] This paper contains information and references to a number of research studies. Copies of the full text are available from the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, An der Hülben 1/15, A-1010 Vienna, Austria, Fax: +43-1-512 16 38 75.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

much of women's time throughout history has been devoted to the reproduction and nurturing of the human race, changes in this sector have had more profound effects on women than men.

Over the past century, schooling has expanded tremendously, providing both girls and boys with more chance for education. Virtually every child in the industrialized world now receives a primary education and most continue beyond. In the developing world, although their enrollment lags behind boys, nearly two-thirds of the eligible girls are enrolled in primary school. Arguments for girls' education have been strengthened over the past decade by research which establishes very strong associations between girls' primary education and their adult patterns of lower fertility, lower infant mortality and better family nutrition.

Women are entering the paid labor force in increasing numbers, particularly as they are educated. Often this marks an inter-generational shift from a mother's unpaid work in agriculture or family business to a daughter's paid work in industry or services. Many paid jobs are in the city, and there have been massive population shifts as male and female workers, sometimes together, and sometimes separately, have moved in the hope of work.

National economies have struggled, with mixed success, to create jobs. When there are more workers than jobs, women are likely to face discrimination, to be hired when they can be paid less, or when they are seen to have desirable characteristics: nimble fingers, patience or docility.

In summary, women today live longer, have fewer children, and are more likely to be literate, to have some degree of control over their fertility, to work outside the home during part of their life, to have more political and legal rights than at any previous time in the history of the world. This transformation in women's life circumstances is so great that we are having trouble grasping it.

**How did it happen?**

I want to discuss causality from the perspective of neo-classical economic theory because, for all its faults, it places individual decision-makers at the center of change processes. I want to use it to argue for a major, though hidden, role for women's action in creating and sustaining these changes. The theory posits that people act rationally in choosing the good as they perceive it, given the opportunity structures they face. Both men and women choose, but even within the same society, the context of their choices may be rather different. Although choice may be limited, the process is dynamic, and over time, the cumulative effects of individual choices on the use of land, labor and capital change the context. Choices also change, in response to new situations.

When the process works well, the result is economic growth and development. For the world as a whole over the past century this has been the case; the world's output of food, manufactured goods, and services has not only been able to keep pace with the growing population, but to more than double average production per capita.

During the past fifty years it has become increasingly clear that human beings themselves are becoming more productive, not just because they are working with better technology, but because they are healthier, more energetic, and better educated.

Economists refer to this increasing depth of investment as an increase in the quality of human capital, and their models attribute 30-50% of the growth in productivity in the industrialized countries to increased investments in human capital.

They acknowledge that this growth is not a free good; Schultz says that the basic questions in the creation of human capital are:

> *Who will bear the costs?*
> *Who will reap the benefits?*

Clearly, there are both public costs, born by the society at large, and private costs, borne by the family and the individual. Yet national accounts reflect only the public costs, the costs of schools and public health systems, clean water and sanitation. They do not count the private costs: the physical costs of pregnancy and lactation, family investments of time, money and other resources.

Yet all over the world families are responding to the hope of better opportunities for their children, by having fewer children and investing more deeply in the health and education of each. It is obvious that to a substantial degree, improvements in human capital have been created within the family.

For individuals the costs and benefits of this shift to quality differ by gender. On some level, everyone understands that the effort has been executed primarily by women in their roles as mother and housewife. I would argue that this effort, over the generations, has been the hidden, private women's movement which has made the public women's movement possible.

Feminist scholarship has made it clear that societies often constrain women's choices so that there are few places other than the family for them to use their intelligence and energy. Over the past century a great deal of time and energy have been expended in freeing women from these constraints and widening their opportunities.

We have been slow to give women credit for operating creatively within such constrained environments. Given the constraints to their own mobility, and

their limited ability to invest in land and physical capital, women have invested in the quality of human capital. Such investments are often a rational choice for women, when their own well-being is dependent on the well-being of their family.

In some contexts, rationality suggested not fewer children, but work toward better living conditions. Women have grown, stored, processed and cooked food to feed their families and sold the surplus. They have domesticated animals and used their milk, their eggs, their meat. They have scrubbed and cleaned and laundered and cared for the sick in the interests of family health. They have woven and sewed and knitted, tanned hides and plucked feathers to keep their families clothed and warm. They have made pots, and mats and rugs, dances, and stories and songs.

Certainly both men and women have a propensity to invest in the survival and well-being of their children. In societies throughout the world, men have contributed to family sustenance; they have farmed and hunted, worked in factories and businesses to provide support. In many societies they have a major role in family decisions about fertility, education and health care.

Although both sexes are responsible for private investments in human capital, I would argue that women have a stronger tendency to prefer child quality to quantity. Biology pushes women toward desiring fewer pregnancies for their own physical good, and whenever possible, to act on this preference. Although in situations where family labor is valuable and child deaths are common, they may accept high fertility rates.

**What is the evidence to support such a position?**

1. **Fertility**: The Demographic and Health Surveys which interviewed 360,000 women in 40 developing countries over a ten year period document women's desire for about one less child than the observed fertility for that country.

2. **Pattern of family investments in quality**: The strong links between women's education and all the quality indicators demonstrates that the major change is inside women's heads. As women become educated, fertility goes down, child mortality goes down, family nutrition goes up, children's education goes up. These findings are among the most robust in the social science literature.

3. **Interaction of women's private and public roles**: Research illustrates the subtle inter-generational effects of girls' education. Women change the decision rules by which they allocate their time, attention and energy. In hundreds of small, nearly invisible changes in their behavior, mothers cumulatively affect the life chances of their sons and daughters.

In the long run, the hidden role of women in creating this shift from quantity to quality in human capital is a major factor in the liberation of succeeding generations of their daughters and granddaughters. Many of us have been endowed by our foremothers in this way.

It is not only a personal, family-by-family effect. We are now experiencing worldwide social and economic effects. This progression in women's lives from:

- a life expectancy of 40 years with 8 pregnancies
- to life expectancy of 60 years with 3-4 pregnancies
- to life expectancy of 80 years with 1-2 pregnancies

is underway more or less rapidly in many places. As it unfolds, it leaves women with fifteen to thirty adult years free from major reproductive demands on their time.

As this enormous surge of women's productive time and energy is released into the world, it seeks outlets in paid labor, the civil society and government. This hidden women's movement continues to create the space and time for the succeeding, public women's movements. Women's increasing levels of disposable time and energy are pressing against and overflowing all boundaries, involving women not only in paid work outside the home, but in political organizations and community work, in non-governmental organizations and personal friendships.

For those of us at this conference, our efforts can best be directed to supporting women in their preferences for quality investments in their families. In the developing countries this means support for women's education, and their access to adequate reproductive health care, while in countries where these resources are secure, attention may shift to the need for harmonization of work and family obligations. Fortunately, the well-being of women, their families and their nation can all be served by such activity.

**Monika Jaeckel**
**GROOTS - Women, Home and Community Super Coalition, Germany**

In industrialized societies today the experience of motherhood is marginalized, the mother-child relationship experienced under conditions of isolation. Children have decreasing access to public space and peer contacts due to industrial development problems, i.e. increasingly dangerous environments, the increase of single child families, etc.

*Mother centers* offer the opportunity to break through the isolation of families. They are places for women and children to meet the community, for peer exchange and support, and places to make public the strengths and need of families. They create room for women and children to expand their skills and raise their self-esteem and confidence in public life. They make visible the work women undertake in the family and increase recognition of female life styles and values. They create public space to voice what is seen when "looking at the world through the eyes of a woman with a child at her hand".

**How do they function?**

Mother centers are a growing grass-roots movement of family women in Germany. There are at present over 300 centers in Germany and the movement is growing internationally.

Activities in an average center include: drop-in coffee shop, child care, second-hand shop, crisis counseling, a variety of groups and workshops from breast-feeding to computer training; inexpensive services like hair-cutting, midday meals, transportation services or elder care.

Mother centers are based on five concepts, all of which must be in place to ensure a successful project:

- Mother centers operate on a grass-root, self-help basis. The "experts" in the center are the mothers themselves. They are not social work projects initiated or headed by professionals, they are peer support systems and networks of family women to lobby for and create social and public space for themselves and their children.
- They claim public space, meaning actual physical space in the communities to which they have full access.
- They promote the remuneration of women's work in the family and in the community. Although there is a wide range of voluntary work, the core activities in the centers are paid (usually on an hourly basis).
- Children are welcome; they are not, however, the center of interest. This creates a public space which is shared by adults and children and a different kind of child care.
- They are female-managed public spaces. They do not follow male-dominated public and corporate culture but create a female-dominated

public culture following female values, more like "public living rooms" than like institutions.

**Impact on children, fathers and communities**

Children learn to deal with other children of all ages and with other adults. Mothers gain confidence and courage to the interests of their children in public. They raise their voices in the communities to lobby for a child and family-friendly environment.

Mother centers contribute to more tolerance and democracy in the neighborhoods. They are places where mothers from different class or cultural backgrounds meet, where they learn to understand people who think or behave in a different way, who have different life-styles, or who deal with their children in a different manner.

In debates on the crisis of democracy in Europe, it has become very clear that neighborhoods are important for the social integration and democratic functioning of societies. Anonymous environments and isolation lead to the increase of violence and racism.

The impact of mother centers on fathers is manifold. They participate in the everyday life of the centers to the same extent that they are present in everyday family life - which, in the main, means that they participate in evening and week-end activities. They often have a strong role in repair, renovation and maintenance work. They do not, however, take leading roles in the centers.

Many men increase their participation in family tasks in order to support the mother center activities of their wives (e.g. taking days off from work to tend the family when the mother takes part in a conference or training programme). They often describe far reaching positive effects of being in an unaccustomed supportive and back-up role for their wives. In a male-dominated society, mother centers offer men the experience of a female-designed environment that many fathers have learned to value as a rare and deep learning process in their lives.

**How does the movement relate to the recommendations of the global conferences?**

- They improve the quality of life for families by providing a place for mutual exchange and support and a place to become aware, develop and expand skills and competence in parental roles, family and community issues.
- They strengthen neighborhoods and grass-root activities and help bridge the gap between family and public life.
- They promote the involvement of men in family life and the integration of women in community life.

- They contribute to raising the social significance and recognition of motherhood by promoting mothers as experts on family and community life and by making these skills visible and further developing them.
- They raise the visibility and recognition of women's work by paying for it in the centers.
- They can also be seen as support for the reintegration of women into the labor market.

The concept of mother centers complements and completes family policy in a major aspect: the quality of life.

A cornerstone of family policy in Germany is the provision of a three-year parental leave scheme, providing time and money for mothers (or fathers) as a prerequisite to stay at home when children are small. The issue of the quality of family life during this time spent at home with young children is not solved by parental leave.

Family policy in industrialized countries needs to address the issue of isolation and marginalization of young families and the parent-child relationship, as the gap between public and private spheres is growing and as family and neighborhood networks are drying out through industrial development and modernization.

A supportive infrastructure of neighborhood networks in local communities will strengthen the essential functions of the family as a basic unit of society.

## THIRD EXPERT SESSION
## "Family and Social Development in All Four Conferences"

> ...acknowledge that it [the family] plays a key role in social development and as such should be strengthened, with attention to the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of its members.
>
> World Summit for Social Development Paragraph 26

### Excerpts from United Nations Recommendations

#### World Summit for Children

Families, communities, local governments, NGOs, social, cultural, religious, business and other institutions, including the mass media, are encouraged to play an active role in support of the goals enunciated in this Plan of Action. The experience of the 1980s shows that it is only through the mobilization of all sectors of society ... that significant progress can be achieved. All forms of social mobilization, including the effective use of the great potential of new information and communication capacity of the world, should be marshaled to convey to all families the knowledge and skills required for dramatically improving the situation of children.

Paragraph 34, IV

#### International Conference on Population and Development

The objective is to ensure that all social and economic development policies are fully responsive to the diverse and changing needs and to the rights of families and their individual members, and provide necessary support and protection, particularly to the most vulnerable families and the most vulnerable family members.

Paragraph 5.8.

Governments should formulate family-sensitive policies in the field of housing, work, health, social security and education in order to create an environment supportive of the family, taking into account its various forms and functions, and should support educational programmes concerning parental roles, parental skills and child development. Governments should, in conjunction with other relevant parties, develop the capacity to monitor the impact of social and economic decisions and actions on the well-being of families, on the status of women within families, and on the ability of families to meet the basic needs of their members.

Paragraph 5.9.

All levels of Government, non-governmental organizations and concerned community organizations should develop innovative ways to provide more effective assistance to families and the individuals within them who may be affected by specific problems, such as extreme poverty, chronic unemployment, illness, domestic and sexual violence, dowry payments, drug or alcohol dependence, incest, and child abuse, neglect or abandonment.

Paragraph 5.10.

All levels of Government in medium and long-term socio-economic planning should take into account the increasing numbers and proportions of elderly people. Governments should develop social security systems that ensure greater inter-generational equity and solidarity and that provide support to elderly people through the encouragement of multi-generational families ....

Paragraph 6.18.

... all Governments, particularly those of receiving countries, must recognize the vital importance of family reunification and promote its integration into their national legislation in order to ensure the protection of the unity of the families of documented migrants.

Paragraph 10.12.

**World Summit for Social Development**

Strengthen institutions that enhance social integration, recognizing the central role of the family and providing it with an environment that assures its protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist.

Commitment 4 (k)

Expanding and strengthening social protection programmes to protect working people, including the self-employed and their families, from the risk of falling into poverty, by extending coverage to as many as possible, providing benefits quickly and ensuring that entitlements continue when workers change jobs.

Paragraph 38 (d)

Helping the family in its supporting, educating and nurturing roles in contributing to social integration should involve:

(a) Encouraging social and economic policies that are designed to meet the needs of families and their individual members, especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members, with particular attention to the care of children;

(b) Ensuring opportunities for family members to understand and meet their social responsibilities;

(c) Promoting mutual respect, tolerance and cooperation within the family and within society;

(d) Promoting equal partnership between women and men in the family.

Paragraph 81

**Keynote**
**Faith D. Innerarity[6]**
**Director, Social Security Division**
**Ministry of Labor and Social Security, Jamaica**

Whilst recognizing that there are variations in family structure from one society to another, there are significant similarities in respect of roles and functions. The family has traditionally had a number of responsibilities placed upon it, primarily connected with its roles in the preparation of children to fit into adult society. The family is where new recruits first learn the basic values and norms of the culture of the society they will grow up in. It is in the family that children first learn the difference between what is seen as "right" and "wrong", "good" and "bad" behavior, the norms governing gender roles and the acceptance of parental and other adult authority.

The family and kinship network play the major role in maintaining and caring for dependent children, housing, clothing and feeding them. The family not only provides most of the help and care for the young, but also the old, the sick and other vulnerable members.

Since the early nineteenth century, work has been mainly based in factories and offices, not at home. Families do not generally produce the goods they need, they go out and buy them. The skills required for adult working life are no longer learnt in the family but at the place of work, colleges or training schools. Changes such as these which have occurred in the family's functions have not diminished its importance in society. The family into which child is born is still one of the single most important factors affecting life chances in areas such as health, education and job opportunities.

The IYF focused world-wide attention on the family and this received considerable reinforcement through the United Nations Conferences of the 1990s. In Jamaica, as in the wider Caribbean community, the IYF served to heighten the consciousness of the population to the importance of the family, and promoted increased coordination among the agencies involved in family-related activities. It also facilitated renewed emphasis on policies and programmes directed at strengthening the family as part of national development strategies. Of particular significance was the public education campaign aimed at highlighting the role of the family as the basic unit of society responsible for the social and economic well-being of its members, notably vulnerable groups such as children, the disabled and the elderly.

---

[6] The original paper contains considerable information about programmes in Jamaica. Copies of the full text are available from the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, An der Hülben 1/15, A-1010 Vienna, Austria, Fax: +43-1-512 16 38 75.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

**Family in the Caribbean**

Caribbean family life presents a number of important academic and practical problems, which are also applicable to African-American families in the United States.

Research on West Indian family organization finds that the social and economic conditions of slavery precluded development of stable nuclear families among blacks in the New World. Continuing "disorganization" of West Indian family life demonstrated by the high incidence of conjugal turnover, illegitimacy and maternal households reflect the continuing situation of the West Indian blacks as an economically and socially depressed class.

Marriage as a social institution in respect of both its European and African forms broke down under slavery. The classification of West Indian forms most commonly applied today refers to three major statuses: married, common-law and visiting unions. It is generally recognized that the upper and middle classes generally adopt the western-nuclear type family structure, whereas common-law and visiting unions predominate among the loser socio-economic groups. Ethnic origin is also recognized as a major influence as persons of Indian and Chinese descent tend to have an extended family system.

For the Caribbean as a whole more than a third of the households are female-headed. Within this group there are a number of variations:

- Mother bringing up her children single-handedly.
- Mother who has "visiting relationships" with a spouse or spouses but who has no permanent father figure in the home.
- Mother who lives with her children in her wider decent group, usually including her own mother and/or female relatives.

It has been clearly revealed by research that the role of the father is associated in the main with economic provider. Because the economic factor is so central to the concept of fatherhood, the status of males as husbands and fathers is ultimately determined by it. An interesting new development is the growing number of children being brought up by single fathers. There are indications that men are becoming more involved in child care and domestic responsibilities regarded as female chores.

**Poverty and the Family**

A recent study on poverty in the Caribbean has shown that the family plays an important role in poverty alleviation and coping strategies. As pointed out, extended family has historically acted as a safety net both for elderly members and for younger members entering the labor market or starting their own families. The family pools the risk of unemployment among its younger members. Social sanctions within close-knit communities have reinforced these institutions. Adult children who do not care for elderly relatives face

ostracism by the wider community. For elderly persons without relatives, the community itself often provides support out of a sense of responsibility.

In Jamaica elderly women are most likely to live with their offspring, usually a daughter if they are no longer living in their own house. The likelihood of living with children is much greater for women than for men, while the majority of residents in homes for the aged are men, in spite of women's longer life expectancy.

Recent changes in the economic, political, social, legal and demographic environment have weakened family systems of support. These include factors such as an aging population, increasing urbanization and therefore overcrowded living conditions, and changes in the concept of familial responsibility. Family structure and its role is social support are also influenced by migration flows. Migration patterns have led to the concept of the "transnational" family. Parents leave their children with grandparents to search for new opportunities. Older people benefit from the company of grandchildren who provide support in the advancing old age dependency. On the other hand this produces economic and social pressures, especially when financial obligations are not met by the absent adult parents.

**Juvenile Delinquency**

There is a high level of youth involvement in the increased crime rate in the Caribbean region, particularly in urban areas. Family disruptions or instability are frequently cited as being among the major factors associated with juvenile delinquency. A study show that many are from large, low-income families with single mothers or grandparents as the head of household. A high-rate of school drop-out was noted. Migration and split-up of the family also contributes.

**Legislation**

Reform in legislation represents one of the major areas of focus in family policies in the Caribbean. The disparity between the legal norm and social reality has presented a limitation on the application and effectiveness of the law. In this regard major legislative reforms that have been introduced include:

- Removing legal distinction between "legitimate" and "illegitimate" children particularly in respect to inheritance rights.
- Introduction of legal provisions to govern the sharing of property in the dissolution of common-law unions.
- Removing the necessity for establishment of fault in divorce proceedings and replacing various grounds for divorce with a single category, the "irretrievable breakdown of the marriage".
- Broadening the legal rights of married women in respect of property ownership.

The introduction of a "Domestic Violence Act" in Jamaica generated much interest and impassioned debate. There are calls for stricter enforcement of the "Child Care and Protection Act" and inclusion of harsher penalties in the laws governing rape, incest and carnal abuse.

**State and other Family Support Systems**

- The Children's Service Division
- National Day Care Programme
- Child Support Unit
- The Adoption Board
- Family Court system
- Save the Children Fund (UK)
- National Council for the Aged
- Jamaica Council for the Disabled

**Non-governmental Organizations**

- Church-based family life ministries
- Women's organizations such as "Women Incorporated"
- Parenting associations e.g. Parenting Coalition, Help for Parents
- Fathers Incorporated

Although government and non-government institutions and programmes have made important contributions toward providing a policy framework and support services for families, there are still a number of challenges to be overcome. These include the limited availability of financial resources to implement programmes and the need for a greater integration of efforts.

**Relevance of Family-Specific Recommendations of United Nations Conferences**

The Caribbean has participated fully in the Conferences, endorsed the declarations and ratified most of the respective Conventions.
As a region we have recorded considerable progress in areas such as human rights, improving the status of women, increasing access to education, reducing infant and child mortality, increasing life expectancy, and maintaining population growth at acceptable levels. We have not been faced with extreme conditions such as civil wars and famines. Notwithstanding this, we are confronted with major social and economic problems related to the unsatisfactory level of growth in the economy, the existence of wide gaps among various social groups and the persistence of poverty among economically disadvantaged segments of the population in both urban and rural areas.

Strategies to alleviate poverty must be linked with policies to improve the condition of low-income families. Education has served as a principal vehicle for inter-generational ability, and it is critical that the level of primary

education be constantly improved and that there be greater access to secondary and tertiary level education. The limits placed by social class origin and family background on education attainment must be reduced, if not eliminated. Closely related is the need for appropriate training to facilitate access to employment within an economic policy framework which maximizes job creation.

Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean accept the fact that a partnership approach involving governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, international agencies, the private sector and other actors of civil society is critical for social development and poverty eradication.

**Drago Cepar**
**State Secretary, Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Affairs**
**Slovenia**

In the period of international preparations for IYF, Slovenia defended, built and shaped a new state - in the sphere of family also. We adopted a Constitution which determines that: "The State shall protect the family, motherhood, fatherhood, children and young people...".

In 1993 the Resolution on family policy was adopted. It contains fundamental principles, objectives and measures of family policy in Slovenia and represents a medium-term plan of work in this field. Specific measures are foreseen in the following fields: the economic and fiscal domain involving direct payments to families and tax reductions; social services and other activities; work and employment; housing.

Two main steps to implement this resolution are the introduction of tax reductions for maintained family members and the adoption of the law on family benefits. This law defines four benefits: payments during maternity leave (1 year); parental benefit which is a 12 month payment to parents who do not have a right to maternity leave; help with equipment for the newborn (layette); an income dependent child benefit.

Since 1993 the law has been amended twice and improved, the main improvements being a higher income criteria for eligibility for child benefit which resulted in raising the number of children receiving the benefit from 147,000 in 1993 to 414,000 in August 1996, and the introduction of an income independent special benefit for the care of handicapped and very ill children.

One of the explicitly stated intentions of the Resolution is to provide material and legal help to parents who wish to devote more time to their families, and to support, encourage and subsidize children to stay in their own families by materially and legally encouraging parents who wish to educate and take care of their children.

**Importance of work in the family**

We have already been informed today that 30-40% of economic growth is attributed to investment in human capital. The Nobel prize winner for economics, Dr. Gary Becker, reminded a meeting that human capital is calculated by multiplication; N(number) multiplied by the "value" (education and other potential) of the individual. The investment in both factors is made mainly by families. So families, especially families with a greater number of children, finance economic growth.

A family meal is the essential rite of the family, connecting and unifying its members; an occasion to transfer values from the older to younger

generation; one of the most intimate and cohesive essentials of different cultures. But preparing this meal has become an underestimated job. The kitchen and cooking have become the attributes of, or even synonyms for the less capable, the dependent, the unsuccessful. Especially if the cooking is done by the mother for her beloved husband and children. The words "a slave to the husband and children" have appeared in the media. The kitchen and cooking, however, has no negative indication if it is performed outside the family (e.g. restaurant) for unknown people. We could make similar statements about other work in the family, like the education of children, care of children, the handicapped, the elderly.

**I propose a campaign on behalf of work in the family**

- Reaffirm that those who perform it are doing something indispensable
- Equalize opportunities for work inside and outside the family which includes achieving economic justice for families investing in human capital, irrespective of whether they do it in or outside the family.
- Call for specific family policies which offer men and women concrete conditions to reconcile their mission or choice as parents with their professional and educational aspirations.
- Underline the irreplaceable educational role of the family and the responsibility of states and governments to make it possible for present and future parents, husbands and wives, to prepare for these tasks and roles.

Some years ago my youngest son, then four years old, came down to call me for a meal: "The queen is inviting us to dinner. It's me the queen's messenger, who announces it." Thus a child experiences his mother, my wife, who is at home, as a queen, not a slave.

Work for the family is necessary and urgent. It becomes more and more crucial for social development, economic progress and individual happiness. We do not want to be only consumers and producers, money makers. We want and need also to be daughters and sons, mothers and fathers, husbands and wives. This is expressed by the Slovene poet, Albert Miklavec as follows:

Man
you search
like a tired bird
for a place to stop,
to rest,
and to strengthen yourself
for further flight,
but there is no tree,
no branch,
because you cut them all down,
and now you are destroying
the last root -
the family.
Spare
at least the last root -
the family,
it will grow
and become your tree
and your branch
that you can rest
migratory bird
on your long way to the new world.

**Sirpa Taskinen**
**National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES), Finland**

When preparing for this paper, I asked a young male colleague to go through the recommendations and classify them for me as to the functions of the family. When he did he put a little note, a rather angry note, on the classification. He wrote: "These are all about equality of women. Don't women understand what they are doing to men? Young men, at least, don't want to be pushed. Where are the other family members?" Of course, he was over-reacting, and I must remind you that we are from Finland, which is the most egalitarian country in the world and where it is taken for granted that women are as equal as men. Finland is the second country to give the vote to women and the first to elect women to parliament.

After he said this, I started wondering if the young man had some points. I recall that when IYF was launched, the Nordic countries had many reservations, saying that we don't want family values to be pushed so far that equality matters are forgotten. Scandinavian countries were happy that equality matters were added in all the United Nations documents. But are we running the risk that we women have been too successful in our lobbying? Might it be that we are winning a battle but losing the war if the young men have a point? What should be the next step to get men involved in family affairs? When I look at this audience I see some very nice men around, but there are too few of them. I would like to see many more. I see on the programme we have a session on Family and Women, Family and Children. I would like to have had a session on Family and Men.

I shall mention a nice example of what we have done in Finland. Last Saturday was Father's Day in Finland and on Friday we had the first show of a videotape on "the right to fatherhood" made by some men. I was a supporter of it in my capacity as manager of an organization and we also had money from the Equality Council of Finland, which has a men's division. Men did this video themselves and looking at it for the first time I felt tears come to my eyes, because it was not sentimental and it was not educational in the traditional sense.

It was about a ride of a young man on a bus going to his wife or girlfriend, we don't know which. The girl was pregnant and during the bus ride there were flashbacks in the mind of the young boy where he saw himself with his father in many situations. I assure you that the father was not a model father. But it was very touching and it showed what the boy was going through and there were many moments when he thought "I must escape from this bus, I am not willing to be a father". But finally he arrived with his girlfriend or his wife. It was a very nice piece of work.

Now about these recommendations. When I was working in this building I was involved in writing some of the papers or publications around Family

Forms and Functions, and the first edition of the Guide for National Action Programmes. I had a personal interest in going through these recommendations, since we all have our narcissistic hope that maybe we have left some trace in the papers or maybe world history. I wanted to see if those few things I wanted to have are in. Bearing that in mind, I tried to trace two themes:

First, how is family policy seen. When we started the IYF, United Nations papers were largely about benefits for the family. In the papers which I wrote, I tried to say that there are at least three aspects of family policy, namely: laws, services and benefits. I was happy to read in the recommendations that, for instance, day-care facilities are stressed and all kinds of health care programmes were indicated. I must say I was rather puzzled by a comment from the audience that the Scandinavian model is institutionalizing. I do not recognize that. For instance, in Finland we have a home-care allowance for those parents who want to take care of their children at home. We are doing our best *not* to put people in institutions. Thus my first concern was answered: family policy has been enlarged. I was very happy to learn about the services. The laws are not as visible as I would like. I fully agree with my colleague from Jamaica that laws are not enough, but we still need them.

My second concern was to find the eight family functions I wrote about. I shall not describe the five or six which are visible, but I shall mention what is missing. I missed the establishment of emotional bonds between spouses, which I think is the basis of the family. The United Nations papers say nothing about an emotional bond between the spouses, as if it were non-existent. The second function that I missed is giving children a name and status, since we know that there are many children in the world who don't get the name and status of their father's family.

I think we have to act on the local, national and international levels and, as has been said, I stress that we need to go through the national programmes with theoretical assumptions. Some of you say that we don't need theories, we need actions, but I assure you that a good theory is the best practice because we cannot transfer a model of action from one culture to another unless we have a good theory on family functions. When we have a good theory on family policy, we can catch the idea and then apply it to our own structure.

**Ursula Dörpinghaus and Marco Aquini**
**New Humanity Focolare Movement, Germany**
**Action for a United World, Italy**

The Focolare Movement is an international movement spread all over the world. Its aim is unity among people, nations and races; to build peace, equality, social justice and a civilization of love, living universal fraternity with the culture of giving and sharing, based on the spirituality of the Gospel.

We shall describe the "Magnificat" project, situated in the State of Maranhao, Brazil, its development, the way we did it and the methods and strategies according to the declarations especially of the Summit in Copenhagen.

The starting point was the well-know problem in Brazil of the unjust distribution of land, the conflict between large landowners and "posseiros", resulting in exploitation, poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy and ending in the exodus of the rural population, creating new problems in cities.

*Step 1*: In 1979 some members of the Focolare Movement (doctors, sociologists, social workers) met 130 posseiro families but they were unable to initiate a project.

*Step 2*: One landowner who wished to sell a piece of her area was persuaded to share the land and deal with the posseiros as human beings, persons with dignity and rights. She donated 420 hectares and made another 2000 available at a reduced price to SERCOM, an associate of the Focolare Movement, which started the development programme.

The strategy was to establish a people-centered approach, not planning at the top. Members of the Focolare Movement went to live with the posseiro families, sharing their problems and sufferings, making themselves one with the families, developing with them a programme to change their situation. They constructed building and worked the land in a communitarian way and started a common fund to meet general needs.

**Next problem - a famine**

*Step 3*: The government was asked for support and sent food to fortify the people so they could work.

*Step 4*: In 1986 after 5 years of communitarian growth, the Association of Farm-workers of the Magnificat community was constituted, bringing together the families of the village. Together they worked the land of each family, according to their possibilities and abilities. Each family has its own income; there is a fund for all needs, a storehouse for seed. They constituted a common building where they meet to deepen their relationship, celebrate together, share information and make decisions for the future development of the programme.

**Next problem - a large flood**

All houses, property, and stock were lost and there was no harvest. However, they overcame, received strength from the community and solidarity among them grew. The disaster did not destroy but brought forward much more.

*Step 5*: International help came from groups of the Focolare Movement; the government gave support and began to build a street. First contacts were made with Action for a United World (A.M.U.), an Italian associate of the Focolare Movement. A long-term programme with a holistic approach to all aspects of family reality was started. With a financial contribution from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs an elementary school, a clinic, a community center, a warehouse for farm products, a crafts workshop and a stable were built. In the agrarian sector, along with farm equipment, special attention was given to training the farm-workers in new techniques; efforts were made to find ways to commercialize their products, which had finally become more than a means for bare survival.

*Step 6*: The programme broadened after 1989 to include 22 other farming communities in the municipality: 11 of those regularly use several of the community services (technical assistance and farm training) but all collaborate with SERCOM on a regular basis.

**Conclusion**

The first noteworthy aspect is that the programme was not planned for but *by* the families, beginning with the members of SERCOM, who shared their lives and the direct involvement of the Association of Farmworkers.

The programme has prevented the exodus to the cities and has resolved the issue of land and house ownership by having SERCOM own the land giving the families occupancy of the newly-built houses for an unlimited period of time.

The programme bears witness to the importance of a global approach in addressing the whole family. It is not sufficient to intervene in specific fields (e.g. education or health) if the interventions are not accompanied by measures aimed at improving the income of the family nucleus.

Magnificat has become a model for the government, which has organized conferences to bring together experts (landscape engineers, agrarian scientists, politicians) with the farmers' families, living and working together and learning from each other, developing new methods and improving the quality of life. The government readily supports the programme because the results are evident.

Magnificat is one of the many experiences being lived in the world as an achievement of the spirituality of unity. The aim is not only to improve the conditions of family life in needy situations, but to lead each family to discovering the values that characterize it and to translate them into life by being open to acceptance, mutual help and social commitment.

**Julian Disney**
**President, International Council on Social Welfare, Australia**

It may be helpful in the beginning for those of you not familiar with an Australian accent to say that I am speaking in English. I'm tempted to say it is my mother tongue but in the light of something I am going to say in a moment I should say that it is my parental tongue.

The International Council on Social Welfare is a very broadly based organization, represented in about 70 countries and that means that my contribution today will try to reflect the diversity of circumstances in different countries. But I have to acknowledge at the outset that it's impossible to do so. I was struck by that most recently when looking at one of the background papers for this conference which referred to the need to get more women into schools as teachers. In my part of the world and in many other parts of the world, the problem is the reverse: how to get more men into the schools as teachers, particularly in the first years. However, I shall try to bear that diversity of circumstances in mind.

The theme of what I want to say today is the **need to strike balances**. The need to strike balances can often be lost in the fervor of action and reaction and in explaining what may be true or asserting a proposition which may be true in one's own society but appears to be inappropriate or extreme in another society. I want to refer especially to three balances.

The first is the balance between parenting and paid work. Much has been said about that and I just want to emphasize two things:
The first, which perhaps applies more in industrialized or industrializing countries than others, is the importance of the physical accessibility of work. The complexity of travel for parents to the work place, to the place of child care if that is available and to their home is a major issue in the lives of many people. I think we need to give more attention to the accessibility of work from home and that's especially important if we are to place more emphasis on ensuring that part-time or intermittent work is available - but on reasonable conditions. Much of the debate, particularly in developed countries, about the balance between work and parenting has tended to rely too much on the choice being between full-time work or full-time parenting. We need to explore vigorously, ensuring that other options are available - but on reasonable conditions.

That brings me to the second balance which needs to be struck and that is between men and women. For example, if we are to encourage the option of part-time work and part-time staying at home to look after children, it is important that men involve themselves in the latter activity to a much greater extent than is common at the moment and that it is not just seen principally as an option for women. It is essential, indeed of the highest priority in family issues at the moment, to be addressing the role of men in parenting. I have been delighted at so many comments that have been made in the last two

days about that. It had occurred to me, as it occurred to Ms. Taskinen, that a session on men and the family would have been valuable. Indeed, if I had to choose the most important issue for change it would be that to concentrate more on the need to develop men's attitudes in relation to parenting. But I emphasize this should be done not just by coercion or cajoling (though that may be extremely important, particularly in some parts of the world) but also by encouragement and facilitation. That's one reason why I believe encouraging part-time work is very important so that men can have that as an option, rather than only the option of full-time work or withdrawing entirely to be full-time parents.

It is also why I think language is important. The leaders of the feminist movement of the last two decades or so have placed great emphasis on language and rejected, for example, the view that because 90% of engineers or judges were men one could refer to them as "he." Quite correctly, they said, that was wrong. The same principle applies to parenting. There are some matters which are matters to do solely with motherhood and with mothering. But many issues that are repeatedly referred to under those headings or as "women's issues," are not, in my view, correctly so described. They have to do with "parenting" or "families." Using such terms as "mothering" when one is really speaking about something which, although more often done by women, is also done by men may reinforce excessively narrow stereotypes. I think language does matter here and that we must be very careful if we are talking about something which does not apply only to women, that we don't use a term that suggests that it does.

The last thing that I would like to say in relation to men is a point that I think our keynote speaker in this session referred to and which I think is very important although no doubt often difficult to appreciate. It is to bear in mind when trying to address men's attitudes how many of these attitudes which may appear to be ones of aggression or belligerence may actually be rooted in an underlying, even if unrecognized, insecurity. That doesn't excuse them, but it may be helpful in trying to address them.

The third balance is between parents and children. I can't do anything like justice to that now, but I do want to emphasize one thing, which is the need for more ready access to information and advice about parenting. Formal education in parenting is no doubt useful, but I think there is a limit to how much one can learn in ten or twenty years before one actually engages in the task. There is a very important and a much neglected role for readily available information and advice - services, like hot lines for example. In some cultures it is easier to find out how to revive a garden plant which is in difficulty, or to get a washing machine fixed, than it is to find reliable accessible information and advice about parenting. I think also in that context the schools have a very important role to play. They have tended increasingly to concentrate on their formal teaching and classroom functions in many cultures at the expense of an equally important role which a general counseling role and the provision of information and advice to parents from

teachers, who in many cases are seeing the parent's children more than they are.

Before leaving the question of key issues, I think it is important for us to be realistic. Those of us who believe strongly in the importance of families - who believe strongly in the importance of long-term unions (whether they be called marriage or not) - need to be realistic about the difficulties of those unions. Many of the most successful marriages of which I am aware are the ones that are rooted in a realistic approach about the difficulties of marriages and about the fact that they will not always be unrelieved joy.

I want to move on now to some possibilities for international action. These involve trying to encourage the development of what I think has become a useful phrase in many international conferences which is "an enabling environment" for social development. I mean "environment" in a number of different senses: firstly economic, secondly social, thirdly cultural, fourthly legal and fifthly political. The need to promote those kinds of environments is behind the comments I am going to make now which have more to do with structures and processes at the international level. In making them I want to emphasize the importance of being, as I like to put it, "bi-focal" in one's approach to these problems.

I mean "bi-focal" in the sense of looking both at immediate problems which are under one's nose and also at deeper underlying causes which are further away. I also mean bi-focal in the sense of looking at local problems, perhaps national problems, but also at international responses which may be an important part of an overall response. In that sense, thinking locally and acting globally is an important part of an overall response.

Let me then look very briefly at five aspects of international action which I wish to suggest.
The first is the importance of working with international groupings which are principally concerned with economic issues. It is a reality, even if unpalatable, that at the moment many social issues are more affected by economic policy, by economic ministers and by inter-governmental action in the economic environment than they are by social policy. Economic bodies such as G7s, WTOs, IMFs and World Banks are affecting crucially the supply of work that is available (which has a crucial impact on family life and on the inter-actions among members of the family); the conditions under which that work is undertaken; the value that is placed on different kinds of work; the level of public resources which are available to provide assistance for families and the impact of taxation and social security systems on families. It is important for us to interact with those economic bodies; to be willing in addition to speak the language of social concern and perhaps the language of values or morality, to be willing also to speak economic language. It's not impossible to be both moral and economically sound. But I find that on both sides of the divide it often seems to be assumed that that is the case. We should not surrender economic argument to narrow economic fundamentalists who don't

value things which cannot be immediately and precisely counted in monetary terms. We should not assume that they command the truth of economic analysis.

Secondly, I think it is important for us to work at the regional and sub-regional level. That was a point made at the outset yesterday and I would like strongly to reinforce it. It is important for a number of reasons. For example, it is very difficult at the global level to be as specific and detailed as one should in trying to pursue action. It is also difficult to develop and maintain momentum amongst NGOs with limited resources when one is operating globally.
On the other hand, if one concentrates only at the national level, one may not be addressing some of the important causes of the problems. In some of the countries most in need, the resources within that country and the freedom within that country for NGOs to express themselves effectively may be very limited. So I want to urge the importance of working at regional and sub-regional levels. The importance of doing so is increased by the extent to which governments are increasingly working at those levels. I think that is one of the major developments of the last ten or twenty years. I am thinking of bodies not only like EU, but also ASEAN, APEC, Caricom or OAU.

The third point is the importance of strengthening the United Nations Commission for Social Development. Some mention has been made of that already and I will not labor the point except to say that within the United Nations we need some driving force which will have the time and the focus to take these matters forward. It is not sufficient, in my view, to rely on two other Commissions which already exist, but whose principal interests are in the areas of the environment and women. Those issues are not fully duplicatory, nor perhaps even substantially duplicatory, with other issues of social development, including the family. We need to activate that Commission through the work of NGOs and through urging governments to make their input much more effective. I might say in passing about the Commission for Social Development and other international outcomes that I think we need to urge them (and do so in our own work) to concentrate more on brief, specific, prioritized outcomes. I don't favor developing more "programmes of action" unless that term is really used to mean a highly prioritized collection of things to be done in the next few years. An overall all-embracing programme of action becomes very counter-productive.

I shall finish with two quick points. The first is the importance of using the human rights treaties. A great deal needs to be done to make the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights more effective and the NGOs have an important role to play in that.

Second is the importance of influencing the global media by an attempt to counteract their tendency to be obsessed with short-term activities and short-term outcomes, as well as with sexist attitudes and violence. That is a particularly difficult area to address, but I think a very important one.

May I just conclude on both a somber note and a lighter note.
The somber note: I think that one of the issues that will rise perhaps to the top of the agenda, at least in industrialized and newly industrialized countries, will be caring for older family members in the future. That will be the result of a number of things: economic development, demographic changes, medical changes etc.

The lighter note is that although there are many things I will take away from this conference I think about one that I suspect will be prominent: it is the suggestion from our Thai colleague that we extend the concept of non-smoking areas (progress made in changing attitudes) to other aspects of social behavior.

## Closing Statements

### Rosalind W. Harris
### Rapporteur

I must thank all of you for the ideas that have come in and warn you that what I am about to say will not reproduce every one of these which we have looked at and will look at much more carefully to include the specific recommendations in the final report. We have based a lot of the discussion on the recommendations you have in your green book and on the summary of the recommendations which have been made by some of the speakers. I suggest that you may want to review these papers again when you think about implementing recommendations and encouraging your organizations to engage in various actions. There is a wealth of information in this material already to work on.

What I want to focus on are a few key words we have heard throughout these two days. We, of course, started with families, and then discussed the members of families: men, women and children but we also spoke about older relatives and those persons in an extended family system who relate closely to each other. The question before us was how to reinforce and assist, if necessary, the relationships within families and the structure of families. We must consider the system approach since a family is a small system in society, nevertheless an essential and crucial one. We want to know more about the dynamics of these systems and there were some proposals for further research in that field.

More mutual respect among members of the family was urged strongly in discussion about women and their request for respect for their roles as home makers, child carers and all the other things which take place in a home. They too should have opportunities for other activities and to engage in other activities. This led to a lot of comment on the fact that society is changing everywhere in the world and recognition that changes are not the same everywhere in the world; not the same even within countries. In some places the rural to urban migration has caused problems for families, in others the problems arise from out-migration. Civil and inter-country strife are disrupting families to the extent that the issue is one of maintaining the remnants of family connections.

Many phrases came up about changing attitudes which is a reflection of a changing society. Attitudes are a reflection of the society itself. When economic and social structures are changing various attitudes which have been useful, perhaps, or certainly traditional for many people must change to accommodate the new situation. It was reiterated that attitudes toward women as mothers must be changed. There was a general plea to understand the vital, essential and equivalent role of women who function solely as mothers for many years. Changed attitudes towards children requires giving them a

larger role as participants both in family and in general life of society. Many spoke of listening to children. In fact we must listen to all persons of society including those who are aging and may have difficult economic futures because family and social life is being restructured. Thus we have spoke of children, youth and aging and all the people in between and their relationships.

One of the key actions in changing attitudes is Education. Equal education, in so far as state or private institutions provide it, should be available to girls as well as boys. Several suggestions were made about curriculum to be included in formal education: family life, parenting skills and sex education. There are differences of opinion on this topic, because of different forms of society, different traditions, the content of such education and whether these subjects should be included in formal education programmes. Some believe these are matters of values and ethics for the family to transmit. However, all present here are sure that values and ethics that meet the needs of today's society must be transmitted to children.

We also discussed role of the State, with some emphasis on aspects of the highly structured European social security systems which provide economic support to categories of people at various stages of life. Issues in countries without such systems were raised. Specific proposals were made about needed changes in social security systems based on redistribution of taxes. The issue of the value of unpaid work was restated frequently: how to quantify it; reflect in national accounts; include in payments governments make to support families. Several recommendations were made about assistance to families with handicapped members or substance abusers which demand special assistance from outside.

Finally, the desperate situations resulting from civil and inter-country conflict, also natural disasters, throughout the world concern many. Large groups need help to maintain what remains of family connections. Emotional relationships are strained.

**Ceridwen Roberts**
**Seminar Chairperson**

I have been honored to be here working with such a wide range of people looking at so many issues that impact on families and affect so many persons around the world.

If we think back to the early papers for the seminar we recall the "red thread" that was identified: commitment to work towards providing a stable, safe and supportive environment for families and other care givers; commitment to work for greater recognition of the role of the family; and commitment to work together in support of national and international plans of action for and with families.

In my view I think that we have covered all that very well in the last two days. At certain points I wondered when we would get on to "X" or "Y" - everybody is ignoring them. Sure enough at the next session up there came "X" and "Y". It is very difficult, if not impossible to identify any issues of family life which have not at least been covered if not in possibly in the depth you or I might have wished. But that is part of the compromise for cramming so much into a two day session.

If I should say what I would most like to emphasis, it is the institution of the family. Marriage researchers talk about marriage; they have a lovely concept that in a good marriage there are three: it is him, her and it. In other words a good marriage survives bad times because the partners have a concept of marriage that they are working to maintain and support. I would argue that you can apply the same model to the family. As person who runs Family Policy Studies Centre, I have been slightly worried about the concepts of men, women and children - not that individually they are not important - but because collectively they do not make a family. We must have this institutional understanding of family, - which I do not mean one particular model -, because I see the generic concept of family to embrace all sorts of different families from the nuclear to the extended, to the mono-parental (lone-parents in the United Kingdom) to the two-parent etc. to the reconstituted - you name it, they are all part of the generic institution of family. From the society where I come from, there is very little interest, I regret to say, in family policy although there is an increasing interest in family values, and it will be interesting to see to what extent an interest in family values turns itself into an interest in supporting family infrastructure and supporting policies that are family-friendly.

What we need to look at particularly are the issues of how we create a mass movement or at least a reliable pressure group which is family-minded in the broadest sense of that word and which is very much attuned to the political necessity at the national, regional and international level of lobbying for the sort of policies which are essential to make family life sustainable and make families able to thrive.

What I have taken out most from these two days is understanding that families as individual units do their best in most cases but there are many circumstances when they are over-shadowed, over-taken and undermined by macro-economic and macro-geopolitic circumstances in which they have to operate. More than anything I think that that's where we bring in the international agencies, because nationally and even regionally we cannot counter-act those counter-veiling policies and initiatives which are anti-family in their impact. That's why we need to go back to the aspect of the third red strand: we need to work collaboratively, initially at the inter-governmental level within own countries, lobbying our own politicians but then broaden out through a host of agencies that exist for us.
Thank you for encouraging me to go back and do more.

**Dennis O. Callagy**
**Chairman, Vienna NGO Committee on the Family**

Mme Chair, it is great to hear that even after two days of exhausting work, you are still willing to do more. May we invite you for next year already? It was really a thrill to see that the idea that happened outside this door one year ago, of taking the recommendations of the global conferences really became the reality of these last two days. At first, of course, those of us who heard of this idea said "Are you out of your mind?". But then we caught our breath and finally were able to gather such an impressive group of international experts. With so many difficult ideas to collect and cover, I think I would disagree that very much was left out. Perhaps we could have done and maybe we will do a session on Family and Men, but I think that was very much brought home in a number of the discussions. I was pleased among others at the last session by Faith Innerarity's absolute passionate enthusiasm, which was contagious. It was a thrill to have such a response from all over the world and from all levels. I wish to say thank you for the strong sponsorship and synergy we have had: from the governments and the European Commission, not just lip service, but being here and really offering concrete cooperation for the future; from the United Nations as well, to Mr. Ghaleb in particular, and you can be assured you have solid partners for the future; and to the NGOs and researchers who have completed this interface and to see that there is this mass movement for and with families.

You will be pleased to know that we have 142 participants from 38 countries and that we have had media coverage: radio interviews in English, French and Spanish are being broadcast world-wide. I believe there were 11 different interviews on all aspects addressed here over the past few days. So it is encouraging that if we had not done this, there would not have been such a major international expert group meeting this year on the family.

In terms of gratitude, I do not want to fail to thank all of you, especially the speakers and the contributors to the programme, our kind hosts at the United Nations and in particular all the dedicated colleagues and friends who have been so engaged and involved in this. Here I single out Monica Tupay and Ottilie Gambrill and our two staff members: a very pregnant Elisabeth Froschauer and her able successor, Sabine Führer; a special thanks once again to George Puthuppally: even though you sit as special assistant, you are our 'family man'.

And we certainly would not have come where we are without our two major players here on the panel. First to Rosalind Harris, thank you for offering us your generous and competent expertise in the difficult task of synthesizing and summarizing the key elements. It will be most useful as a ground work for the outline for future action and the report of this meeting which is planned. We thank you very much.

And finally, it is impossible to summarize in a fair and complete way the great qualities and gifts of our Chairperson, Ceridwen Roberts: her talents but also her gifts to us. Let me try in a few words:

You have been a perfect conductor of our symphony, bringing out our very best ideas coming from our solos, our arpeggios, our crescendos, and our very different voices - into a harmony and synergy that we did not realize we were capable of. Together with Ros, you have both helped us to put the emphasis on the key elements and brought the four movements of our symphony from the conference reflections: the visions, the child, women and social development to a very fruitful conclusion, leaving us with a composition and sheet music, at least, to develop into further action.

You have worked with us with a firm hand and a very respected baton. All of the time limits were more or less kept, without imposing your own personality, and steering us as a perfect conductor to consolidate our ideas in the best way. We thank you for a very devoted, generous and above all capable leadership in that journey. We have heard a North American English, an Australian English and yours is 'very British' in the very best sense of the word. You have been a perfect listener and a perfect communicator and we thank you very much.

## OUTLINE FOR FUTURE ACTION FOR FAMILIES
## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

### INTRODUCTION

Although one of the aims of the 6th International Seminar was to identify concrete integrated strategies for the implementation of family-specific recommendations of the Global Conferences of the 1990s, it turned out that speakers and participants concentrated in their contributions on recommendations only, thus leaving the more strategic aspects to the individual implementing agency, e.g. NGOs, groups, individuals etc. when it comes to the specific situation of implementing an action.

As the Seminar speakers and participants came from various parts of the globe, their proposed recommendations vary in focus; some briefly underlined special or general concerns, some were more lengthy, more specific, as they are based on actual projects and experiences. On some there was agreement, on others different opinions came to the fora, some recommendations presented by panelists were reinforced, some addressed the need for consciousness building - on family issues for individuals and NGOs themselves, others demanded a review and evaluation of projects and programmes as well as the formulation of a clear implementation strategy.

Common to all recommendations was the intention to highlight how the indispensable functions and contributions of families can interact with necessary policy measures at various levels, for the benefit of families and their individual members and of society. Description of the purpose underlying many recommendations may be found in the text of the presentations. Another aspect that became visible was that some of the recommendations appearing in all expert sessions proved the interdependence and inter-relationship of family issues.

The following outline is an effort for a more structured compilation of all recommendations. It should stimulate action and serve as a tool in view of future implementation of activities.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

## FIRST EXPERT SESSION
## "Family and Children in All Four Conferences"

**RIGHTS OF CHILDREN**

- Promote a general attitude to regard children not just as future citizens or objects but as partners and persons in a family socialization cycle.
- Raise awareness of the role of children, both their needs and their contributions in respect to the family and society, as laid down in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Facilitate the amendment of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to raise the age of participation in military activities.
- Set initiatives at relevant levels in the interest of children
  - that they are heard in divorce proceedings
  - that they are granted the right to see their grandparents
  - that they receive better protection in the so-called 'child trade' (e.g. in song contests, fashion shows etc.)
  - that regulations concerning child labor are more strictly enacted

**COMMUNITY**

- Conduct community workshops and dialogues between and among men, women and children on issues relevant to them (e.g. gender sensitivity, listening skills, children's rights and responsibilities, effects of social and cultural factors on families etc.).
- Organize social activities where children are *not only seen but heard and listened to.*
- Develop media programmes (television, radio, print media) with and by children.
- Facilitate interaction between adults and children within community life, e.g.:
  - install child-care and play-corners in public buildings i.e. town halls, department stores, doctors offices, at seminars and conferences;
  - provide opportunities for children to have meals with their parents in company canteens;
- Train children (youth), elders and parents to become community animators and thereby develop a *community support system* that will:
  - help families/communities discover and articulate social or cultural factors that make families survive despite adversity (resilience);
  - develop advocacy and public awareness campaigns where children themselves raise their concerns at the national level;
- Promote and facilitate adoption of children without a family.

**CHILD ABUSE**

- Study the causes of child abuse and child prostitution in order to speak out more openly on that subject and to become more effective in planned actions.
- Urge governments to strictly enact extradition treaties concerning the trafficking of children.
- Ensure that programmes dealing with the recovery and healing of abused children include families and communities as they should be part of the recovery process and the re-integration of the child into the family and the community.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

*FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE*

- Ensure basic education for street children, abandoned and working children.
- Develop carefully balanced sex education programmes, also considering the stage of maturity of the children, focusing strongly on love education, family functioning, how to build and preserve the perspective of love and respect in marriage and family.

*FOR PARENTS*

- Ensure that, from the beginning, programmes for families with drug-addicted children include a supportive element for parents: to realize that they continue to be parents.
- Ensure that parent-information and parent-education include the important element of child and adolescent development and also the impact of special difficulties in the process of growing up.
- Inform families of the results of research done on children in difficult circumstances.
- Design programmes to instill the values and ethics of family life: encourage parents to transmit these within the family and include them in school curricula, in programmes at the workplace, in drug-abuse prevention programmes etc.
- Encourage programmes that underline strong family cohesion as the best protection for the development of children and for their growing up to be responsible persons and future parents. Children should realize that all members of a family are to protect each other.
- Conduct workshops on capability building, productivity enhancement and developing marketing networks to make parents gainfully employed in order to avoid child labor.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

## SECOND EXPERT SESSION
## "Family and Women in All Four Conferences"

### SOCIAL SECURITY AND EMPLOYMENT

- Collect data and quantify the value of unremunerated work in families. Include the data in official national accounts and use it to broaden social security programmes to cover women's time and work in the home.
- Create awareness at all levels that unpaid work in families is a pillar of national economies.
- Facilitate women's access to the labor market by harmonizing work and family responsibilities, recognizing the importance of the participation of women in the labor market and the involvement of fathers in parenting.
- Urge employers, trade unions, social scientists etc. to recognize the great challenge of reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, making work and family a joint venture.
- Cooperate with employers to provide family counseling services and child-care facilities at the workplace.
- Enlarge the schemes which make credit and land ownership available to women.

### COMMUNITY

- Create a supportive neighborhood infrastructure in local communities for women and families.
- Establish 'Mother Centers on every 4th corner' as well as family centers. Local governments should provide funds and resources.
- Facilitate networks for women and their participation in public concerns.
- Urge governments to link public funding of housing to the willingness of construction companies to fulfill the requirement for child- and family-friendly homes and neighborhoods, as defined by expert committees including family and neighborhood women.

### DISCRIMINATION AND ABUSE

- Revise laws and regulations to eliminate gender discrimination.
- Campaign to prevent sexual exploitation.
- Train police officers, medical personnel, staff from the Attorney-General's office, social workers and psychologists to enable them to deal legally and psycho-socially with women and children who become victims of family abuse and violence.

**HEALTH AND COUNSELING**

- Action, especially in developing countries:
  - Support women's access to affordable, acceptable and convenient reproductive health services.
  - Train mid-wives and provide them with basic supplies to reduce infection and anemia.
  - Organize and maintain centers which can deal effectively with difficult deliveries.
- Establish or provide effective family counseling services which are easily accessible to all families.

**ROLES AND ROLE SHARING IN FAMILIES**

- Provide relevant opportunities for both women and men to better recognize the need for and the fulfillment of sharing roles within the family.
- Create awareness at all levels to recognize the increased sharing of roles among women and men in families.
- Use mass media, public fora and pressure in campaigns to change attitudes and values related to sex and gender roles. Make sure that media fulfill their tasks responsibly and as well informed as possible.
- Improve efforts to raise understanding at all levels, including families themselves, for the vital task of preparing boys for the role as fathers.
- Develop tools for boys and men for combating any inclination to aggression, supporting them to understand ambitions and insecurities and to build self-esteem.
- Encourage women's involvement in peace-making processes.
- Create an accepting atmosphere at all levels for mothering and fathering as full time vocations that need a variety of skills (educational, psychological, medical, financial, caring etc.).
- Give awards in public ceremonies to couples who have been married a long time.

**EDUCATION**

- Introduce the topic of family life in school curricula, supporting parents and children to achieve rewarding family relationships.
- Ensure that the know-how acquired through child-raising, family and community work is accepted as a qualification for training programmes and jobs.
- Develop and distribute materials on family development to newly-weds, married couples and young people as well as to the business community (family situations of their employees have a bearing on their success).
- Action, especially in developing countries:

– Support primary education for *both* girls and boys, and equal access of male and female students to secondary and tertiary levels.
– Build smaller, more numerous primary schools nearer to homes.
– Attach day-care facilities to local schools to permit girls to bring their younger siblings with them.
– Staff schools with female as well as male teachers.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

## THIRD EXPERT SESSION
## "Family and Social Development in All Four Conferences"

### PARTICIPATION AND TRANSFORMATION

- Ensure the full participation of families and communities in the diagnosis, design, implementation and evaluation of interventions to assure them of control and real ownership of programmes or projects.
- Convince policy-makers that public funds must be channeled into the grassroots' sector and self-help movements.
- Realize that people live longer, and that the co-existence of several generations raise questions of inter-generational relationships, both in view of support and care as well as of continuity in families.
- Organize public discussion of family issues within the NGO community. The support of the media is critical in this regard.
- Encourage participation at all levels in efforts to transform attitudes within families, cultures, systems and structures of society as well as the development of common values worldwide which stress tolerance, trustworthiness, justice, respect for others and the need to combat discrimination and prejudice.
- Involve employers in supporting family life, e.g. providing facilities for child-care or organizing a flexible work schedule.

### SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

- Facilitate and contribute to regional and international networks, which exchange information and ideas on special assistance to and services for marginalized and disadvantaged families.
- Initiate and support services to be made available to special groups such as men, women and children traumatized by war; the victims of Chernobyl; families in countries in transition; refugees and victims of man-made or natural disasters.

### RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work towards the adoption of a **Declaration on Family Rights and Responsibilities** by Governments.
- Develop educational tools for raising the competence and the willingness of families to fulfill their function as defendants of the rights of their members.

**PRACTICAL FAMILY ASPECTS**

- Give greater attention to the emotional relationships among family members.
- Designate August 1 as "Respect for Parents Day".
- Invite media to conferences and seminars about the family.
- Governments should provide travel grants to NGO representatives to attend international meetings.
- Retain the IYF logo and hold seminars every two years.

**MAINSTREAMING**[7]

- Develop a detailed approach to mainstreaming the family into the national, regional and international debate, in consultation with the NGO community. To do this:
  - Create a database of expertise on family-related issues which includes information on achievements and obstacles.
  - Monitor the impact of mainstream initiatives.
  - Collect and analyze case studies of empowered families.
  - Ensure that international policies are complementary to national and regional policies and vice versa.
  - Organize conferences and workshops, publish relevant material and use different media and methods to raise awareness of policy-makers and other actors.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

- Encourage governments to develop National Plans of Action to implement the family-specific recommendations of the United Nations Global Conferences within the context of National Development Programmes for economic growth, poverty eradication and social equity. Link the plans with sectional development plans (e.g. health, education, population). These plans of action should as far as possible include schedules, resources required and the institutional framework.
- Circulate the United Nations recommendations at the national and community level to all stakeholders.
- Include a progress report on family-related issues at each Session of the Commission for Social Development.

[7] For information please find in Annexes the Action Sheet on the Issue: 'Mainstreaming Family Concerns into Social Policies and Programmes in National and International Contexts'.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

**IMPLEMENTATION (continued)**

- Establish formal linkages between the relevant NGO community and the national and international institutions in order to ensure sustained implementation of the United Nations recommendations. The United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (Subprogramme on Family) and the Commission for Social Development could be the major facilitators for this process. Some key partners in the NGO community are the International Family Policy Forum and the New York and Paris Committees on the Family.
- Give high priority to enacting, revising or abolishing laws to conform with the family-specific recommendations.
- Study the impact of structural adjustment policies on families in developing countries.
- The **8 Family Functions** listed in the IYF publications "*Family: Forms and Functions*" and "*Guide for a National Action Programme on the International Year of the Family*" should form the basis of country reviews which would ask:

– Is there a policy for each of them? Is some area neglected or ignored?
– Are all means of family policy being considered, (1) laws and norms, (2) benefits and (3) services?
– Are the objectives for family policy and the selected means coherent with each other?
– What is known of the impacts of certain policies on different family functions?

# ANNEXES

**Canon Joseph Moerman**
**Founding Chairman of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family; former Secretary-General of International Catholic Child Bureau (ICCB)**

## I. The basic background document and the search for an efficient result

The "Compilation of Family-Specific Recommendations of the Global Conferences of the 1990s" which we received as the basic background document for the Seminar is, as far as the family is concerned, a remarkable anthology of true and respectable ideas, plans and projects, which all deserve to be implemented.

Contrary to what usually happens when different bodies deal from different angles with one and the same topic, there are no contradictory or conflictual options in this anthology. Nearly all the recommendations are converging, and so much converging that the reader gets the impression of reading a series of repetitions. Real values and acceptable proposals are repeatedly expressed in more or less the same terms, such as:

- family is the basic unit of society
- family is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support
- family should be strengthened
- forced shifts of population caused by violent conflict and war ... have placed greater strain on the family, since assistance ... is no longer possible, etc.

In all the mentioned conferences it has been repeated what should be done. However, it is practically impossible to find guidance about how to start and how all that can be done, how difficulties can be overcome. This is all the more true in our present socio-economic and political catastrophic situation. At some moments one has the impression that many of these texts were addressed to another society than our present one.

Indeed, the situation of the world has changed so much that now, during those two days, our main concern should be: What is the most useful we can do for the families in the present situation without sticking to some wishful thinking or to irrelevant projects?

Each concrete and realistic resolution workable today can be justified by referring to one of the numerous recommendations of the background document.

## II. What a seminar of two days can achieve to contribute to the best implementation possible of the principle: *Family, the basic unit of society* in the most tragic situations of today

As indicated above, the recommendations (i.e. principles, analysis and paragraphs of the different plans of action) normally correspond to what should be done in favor of the family. We can really say that these recommendations are true. However, they do not

indicate, and probably could not indicate, "how" to do it in exceptionally troubled times when priorities and efficient initiatives are bound to take into account the disastrous macro-environment.

The two major elements responsible for our exceptionally troubled times are:
- the global socio-economic crisis affecting a majority of countries and more especially the poor families of those countries
- the violent conflicts and wars which have recently occurred in such countries as for instance Afghanistan, Sudan, Liberia, Somali, Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire.

**A. The socio-economic crisis**

The socio-economic crisis is so tragic in so many countries that, more than ever, we have to emphasize the role of the family for the benefit of society at large as well as for the benefit of the individuals: more than any other structure, the family has a deeper motivation to alleviate the suffering and to save the lives of its members. Since every individual person is supposed to belong to a family, one can conclude how beneficial the effect of the family can be for the whole community. The projects for the families to practice a certain "resilience", which is now taught and recommended, can become a real relief therapy.

**B. The violent conflicts and wars**

When nearly everything is destroyed by war, there are still remainders of family life, left to the care of women, since in most cases husbands and male youngsters are either at war or have been assassinated. In extreme cases, even the humanitarian organizations are no longer able to bring any help as was and is unfortunately still the case in the North-East Zaire region.

**III. What can this seminar do for the families with regard to present wars?**

**A. Creation of awareness**

First of all, we can in any case create awareness among the leadership and the members of our organizations about the very tragic situation of the families, especially in war situations, and ask for possible innovative and realistic suggestions.

**B. Interventions with the responsible authorities**

In our quality as an NGO Committee on the Family, we should utilize all channels at our disposal to influence the concerned decision-makers at the summit of States and intergovernmental organizations, especially the United Nations.

The world's opinion is scandalized by the fact that, after more that two weeks complete chaos and disaster, provoked by irresponsible armed groups on Northeast Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi, and followed by the total paralysis of the humanitarian organizations, the Security Council has not even been convened to an urgent meeting. Cowardice? Complicity? Hidden interest? And if so, who are those responsible? Governments? Private groups? The United Nations itself? Who has an interest in that sort of postponement?

If the United Nations and the Governments really consider the family as the basic unit of society, their priority concern should have gone to the families. At stake is not only the survival of families, but of all individuals and of the society as such in concerned countries.

If we, as an NGO Committee on the Family, are also convinced that the family is the basic unit of society, I wonder whether it is not also our priority duty to do the maximum possible in favor of those ten thousands of families who are on the very edge of extermination. I entreat you to address a strong request to the different authorities concerned, and first of all to the Secretary General of the United Nations, insisting to immediately take all appropriate measures to enable the humanitarian organizations to again play their role of assistance and relief in these devastated regions. Let them know that people are questioning the very *raison d'être* of the international organizations.

As far as we are concerned, could we have a good conscience when, nicely talking during two days about the family, we would fail to take any concrete step or effort in favor of those suffering families? The Conference of Stockholm[1] has been shocked by the pedophile scandals in Belgium. Can we remain unshocked vis-à-vis what is happening now in Africa?

Canon Joseph Moerman
Rue Trembley 12/156
CH-1209 Geneva
Switzerland
10 November 1996

[1] Conference on Exploitation of Children (Stockholm, September 1996)

**HENRYK J. SOKALSKI**
**United Nations Coordinator of the International Year of the Family (IYF)**

My dear Dennis, Members of the Vienna NGO Committee:

As you will be convening for your 6th International Seminar in Vienna, on 11 November to discuss the theme of "Integrating Family in Social Progress and Development", rest assured that among many friendly sentiments of those who would not be able to make it to Vienna on the occasion, you have my warm wishes for success and congratulations on yet another project which makes us all proud of you.

Your consistent work and long-lasting commitment have shown that although the International Year of the Family has ended, its quintessence is here to stay. You are, indeed, the bearers of the IYF torch, carrying its flame of positive action into the future. The spirit of Malta, which the world community primarily owes to the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, has not faded from the horizon with the conclusion of the observances of the IYF.

One could not think of a better and more challenging subject to grapple with, at this juncture, than that of Implementing Family-Specific Recommendations of the Global Conferences of the 1990s. The Compilation of Family-Specific Recommendations of these meetings and the Indicative Guide for Action on Family Issues, two of the most useful publications of Secretariat of the International Year of the Family, constitute excellent sources of inspiration to reflect and act on the well-being of families.

We have all experienced elevating moments of satisfaction throughout the preparations for and observances of the International Year of the Family. We have also faced many challenges, which show how complex family issues can be. In the face of inadequate appreciation of the role of the family as both an object and subject of social progress and development, it will demand much patience and perseverance to make our message heard and, even more so, to have its underlying contents implemented. The family-specific recommendations of the series of recent global conference offer a unique platform for joint action on the threshold of a new millennium.

Crucial to the success of such action on behalf of families will be the vigor and determination of the NGO community to mobilize both the Governments of Member States and the public in building the smallest democracy at the heart of society. I, therefore, salute the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family for its relentless efforts in the search for broad support, which, on the occasion of your seminar, has materialized in the form of the generous contributions of the Governments of Austria and Spain as well as the Directorate-General V of the European Commission.

While it is easy to be inspired and launch new initiatives, it is difficult to keep pursuing when the luster has faded away. By your tenacity and zeal in the face of odds, you

have passed the test of time by manifesting your deep commitment to and support of the cause of the family. Having done so, I am confident that your continuing efforts will carry the message of IYF into the future.
May you have the most fruitful deliberations and be empowered to pursue the task you have set out to accomplish.

Henryk J. Sokalski, Assistant Secretary-General
Special Representative of the Secretary General to the
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Bul. "Ilinden" b.b.
91000 Skopje
Macedonia
7 November 1996

## Vienna NGO Committee on the Family: PLAN OF ACTION OF 1997

### 1. SERVICE TO INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

- PLATFORM FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- Families International: quarterly newsletter
- Position Papers: e.g. on the International Year of Older Persons 1999
- Information Papers related to the theme of the 1997 International Day of Families "Building Families Based on Partnership"
- Draft Frame for Future Action (DFFA): Publication compiling Activities based on the DFFA

- PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION

- Cooperation with the Austrian Institute for Family Research for the 2nd European Scientific Congress on Family Research "Living and Family Forms: Facts and Norms", Vienna, June 1997

### 2. COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, New York

- Cooperation with the Subprogramme on Family, Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD)
- Cooperation with UNDP Task Forces to mainstream family into their programmes
- Lobbying at the Commission for Social Development 1997, including submission of joint NGO Statement
- Lobbying at the Third Committee (United Nations General Assembly) 1997

### 3. BUILDING A GLOBAL PLATFORM

- Cooperation with Family Committees in New York and Paris: Information exchange and joint lobbying
- Cooperation with International Family Policy Forum, Canada: Building and strengthening an international family network at all levels
- Cooperation with NGO Committees in Vienna: Preparing of joint action in promoting the International Year of Older Persons 1999 with a view to strengthen inter-generation relationships
- Lobbying for the Declaration on Responsibilities and Rights of Families

### 4. WORKING GROUPS

- WG Developing Countries: Leadership in organizing a cooperation between the Austrian Institute for Family Research and the Marriage Encounter Uganda on a model project: "Parents, Teachers, Students - Partners in Sex Education"
- WG Countries in Transition: Cooperation with the newly established Central and Eastern European - Family Network (CEE-FAMNET)
- WG Parenting: Focus Theme 1997
- WG Media

## ACTION SHEET 1996-97
## MAINSTREAMING FAMILY CONCERNS INTO SOCIAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXTS

**OBJECTIVES**

- Deepen awareness of decision-makers of the family dimension in all policies and programmes.
- Integrate the family dimension in all policies and programmes.
- Consider the impact of family issues on all social interaction - political as well as business and private life.
- Involve families in policy and programme processes.

**STRATEGIES**

- Analyze issues and priorities of actual policy measures for families.
- Examine and define realistically family objectives and commitment by defined NGOs.
- Identify key areas for action and programme planning according to priority.
- Strengthen family competencies for participatory process.
- Lobby for priority issue with decision-makers.
- Build coalition with partners pursuing similar objectives.
- Publicity.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

- Familiarize with terminology and content of 'mainstreaming'.
- Study national and international mechanism concerned.
- Involve families in programme planning.
- Maintain contacts with decision-makers in governments, institutions, businesses and others.
- Develop position papers on priority issues presenting the organization's specific view.
- Present statements and lobby at important local, national and international meetings.
- Develop and distribute information material.
- Contact media.
- Make in-depth study of priority issue in seminars, workshops etc. involving organization's membership, representatives of governments, institutions, business *and* families.

**EVALUATION (ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS)**

- Give examples of concrete measures taken in legislation, institutions etc.
- Evaluate impact level and outreach of contacts made.
- Gather statistical data (requests for information, participation at meetings etc.).
- Contact media for coverage.

## LIST OF SPEAKERS

**ROSALIND W. HARRIS, USA**

- Representative to the United Nations and UNICEF
- Past member of the International Executive Committee for International Social Service
- President (1966-72) and Chairman (1977-78) International Social Service, American Branch
- President (1972-76, 1991-94) and Vice-President (1969-72), Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council
- President (1966-68, 1983-85) NGOs Committee on UNICEF; Treasurer (1986-91)

**ANN MANNEN, The Netherlands**

- Member of the Bahá'í International Community
- Advisor on gender issues in delegations of the Netherlands to the CSW in Vienna (1992), the General Assembly of the UN (1992) and to the 4th World Women's Conference (1995)
- Board Member of the European Women's Lobby
- Consultant, trainer and teacher in inter-cultural communication and management. working fields are: institutions for higher education, health care, social work, adult education, governmental organizations and women's organizations

**JOHN J. DONOHUE, Switzerland**

- Director for Central and Eastern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States at the UNICEF Regional Office in Geneva, Switzerland

Past:

- Joined UNICEF in January 1977 as Adviser on Urban Affairs in New York
- July 1984 to December 1990 UNICEF Representative in Brasilia
- From January 1991 served as Director of the Evaluation Office in New York
- Ph.D. in Social Sciences, Diploma in Latin American Studies and Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning

**HELMUT WINTERSBERGER, Austria**

- Head of Programme on Childhood at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna
- Doctor of Social Sciences
- Lecturer, University of Vienna
- Guest Researcher, University Centre of South Jutland, Esbjerg and Odense University, Denmark
- Guest Professor, University of Molise, Campobasso, Italy

**ROSERILLAN S. ROBIDILLO, The Philippines**

- Director of International Catholic Child Bureau - Asia
- Coordinator of programmes in Asia, especially for the recovery of children victims of prostitution and pornography

**BRIGITTE DÖRING, Austria**

- Sociologist, with United Nations since 1978
- Many years in Statistical Division (DESIPA) and in the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts (DAM) in New York
- Member of UNOV since 1995: first as Special Assistant to the Director General, now as Deputy Director of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division

**SAISUREE CHUTIKUL, Thailand**

Present:

- Senator
- Chairperson - Senate Committee on Women, Children, Youth and the Elderly
- Chairperson - National Committee on the Family
- President - Foundation for Women and Democracy Development
- Senior Advisor - Office of the Prime Ministry on Women's Affairs

Past:

- Cabinet Minister for Women, Children and Social Development
- Secretary General of the National Youth Bureau

**KATHLEEN CLOUD, USA**

- Associate Professor of Human Development and Director of Office of Women in International Development
- Research History in two cycles: 1) Optimizing children's development and 2) Optimizing women's development
- Studies the progress of India's new policy initiatives for rural women by studying the effects of a rural credit program on the households of men and women borrowers on three villages and works on research on the interaction between mothering and increase on the quantity of human capital, with the new UN international data set on women

**MONIKA JAECKEL, Germany**

- Sociologist, Senior Researcher at Deutsches Jugendinstitut, Munich, Germany
- Various research projects on issues of compatibility of work and family life
- Initiator of mother centers movement in Germany
- German representative in child-care network of European Union
- Author of various books on family policy

**FAITH D. INNERARITY, Jamaica**

- Sociologist
- Director of Social Security in the Ministry of Labor, Social Security & Sport, Jamaica; in this position Ms. Innerarity directs and coordinates operations of the Public Assistance and National Insurance Division of the Ministry
- Master in Sociology (University of West Indies); post-graduate training in Rural Development Planning
- Author of numerous socio-economic studies as well as studies on rural women with problems of poverty

**DRAGO CEPAR, Slovenia**

- State Secretary for Family in the Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia
- Member of Slovenian Movement for Life
- Member of Board of Directors of International Family Policy Forum
- National Coordinator for IYF

**SIRPA TASKINEN, Finland**

- Ph.D.; Psychologist
- Psychologist, Development Manager in the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Finland
- Senior Consultant at the IYF Secretariat
- Member of the European Union Observatory on National Family Policies

**URSULA DÖRPINGHAUS, Germany**

- Teacher; Member of New Humanity - Focolare Movement
- In charge of international projects of New Families Movement

**MARCO AQUINI, Italy**

- Director of A.M.U. (Action for a United World), Member of the Focolare Movement
- Member of CIPSI, Italian network of development

**JULIAN DISNEY, Australia**

- President of the International Council on Social Welfare
- Social Welfare Advocate and Commentator
- Major Contributor to drafting of documents for the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark
- Former Coordinator of the Welfare Rights Centre, Australia
- Former President of the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ms. Salma Abdeljabbar
Nord-Sud XXI
17, rue Ferdinand-Hodler
CH-1207 Geneva
Switzerland

Ms. Ljiljana Abramovic-Savic
Women Help Women
Str. Nusiceva 1
Belgrade
Yugoslavia

Mr. Marco Aquini
Action for a United World
Corso V. Colonna 78/B
I-00047 Marino (Rome)
Italy

Ms. Margaret Bachmann-Gale
The Salvation Army
Prinz-Eugenstr. 14/SB
A-1040 Wien
Austria

Mr. Martin Bartenstein
BMUJF
Stubenbastei 5
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Ms. Anima Basak
Int'l Abolitionist Federation
Kahlenbergerstr. 61
A-1190 Wien
Austria

Ms. Françoise de Bellefroid
World Movement of Mothers
Ave. de Tervueren 66/1
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium

Ms. Roswitha Benesch
Soroptimist International
Schweizertalstr. 8-10/4/7
A-1130 Wien
Austria

Ms. Agota Benkö
National Association of Large Families
Március 15, tér. 8
H-1056 Budapest
Hungary

Ms. Martina Berdychová
Social Rehabilitation of Adolescence Youth
Chechova 15
CZ-17000 Prague
Czech Republic

Mr. Iuliu Both
Organizatia Vecinatatea
Str. Selimber nr. 2/2
RO-4300 Tirgu Mures
Romania

Ms. Sonja Brauner
Österr. Kinderfreunde
Rauhensteing. 5/5
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Mr. Fabrizzio Brauzzi
Italian Centre of Solidarity
Via Attilio Ambrosini 129
I-00147 Rome
Italy

Ms. Geraldine van Bueren
Queen Mary and Westfield College
Mile End Road
London E1 4NS
United Kingdom

Mr. Dennis O. Callagy
ICCB
Gonzagagasse 13/8
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Mr. Michel Cappan
Bond Van Grote en Van Jonge Gezinnen
Troonstraat 125
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium

Mr. Drago Cepar
Ministry of Labour, Family & Soc. Affairs
Kotnikova 5
SLO-61000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Mr. Danae Christophorides
International Social Service
6, Mantzarou str.
GR-10672 Kozonaki, Athens
Greece

Ms. Sriwatana Chulajata
National Committee on Women's Affairs
1 Phitsanulok Road, Dusit
T-10300 Bangkok
Thailand

Ms. Saisuree Chutikul
Office of Permanent Secretary
Government House
T-10300 Bangkok
Thailand

Ms. Maria Antoaneta Ciochirca
National Ass. of University Women
8-th Daniceni str. Sector 1
RO-71267 Bucuresti
Romania

Ms. Kathleen Cloud
University of Illinois
320 Int'l Building, MC 480, 910 S 5th
Champaign, IL 61820
USA

Mr. Alberto Colaski
Fundación Bocacalle
Roque Saenz Pena 1135 Dpto. C
RA-5000 Córdoba
Argentina

Ms. Proica Craciun
Instituto Femeilor
Str. Domnita Anastasia 13, Ap 36, S 5
RO-70623 Bucuresti
Romania

Ms. Janet Cunningham
Scripture Union
45 Heyman Road Suburbs
Bulawayo
Zimbabwe

Mr. Kevin Daly
ICCB
Gonzagagasse 13/8
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Mr. Julian Disney
In'l Council of Social Welfare
25, Ridley Street
AUS-2601 Turner, ACT
Australia

Mr. Darko Djorkovic
Women Help Women
Str. Nusiceva 1
YUG-Belgrade
Yugoslavia

Ms. Christine Dodd
Sophia Centre
Bretby Business Park, Ashby Road
Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire
UK-DE15 OYX

Mr. John J. Donohue
Reg'l Director CEE-CIS & Baltic States
UNICEF, Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Ms. Brigitte Döring
Crime Prevention Division
UNOV P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Wien
Austria

Ms. Ursula Dörpinghaus
New Humanity - Focolare Movement
Fritz-Haberstr. 8
D-42651 Solingen
Germany

Mr. Norbert Dreesch
World Health Organization

CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Ms. Brigitte Dreize
Multichildren Families Association
Republikas iela 19-9
LV-3401 Liepaja
Latvia

Mr. Zóltan Ellenes-Jakabffy
Pro Familiae Foundation
Str. Tudor Vladimirescu nr. 78
RO-3700 Oradea
Romania

Ms. Hamsa Eichler
All India Women's Conference
Peter-Roseggerweg 2
A-2340 Mödling
Austria

Ms. Bahia Ettehadieh
Bahá'í International Community
Wallererstr. 233
A-4600 Wels
Austria

Ms. Brigitte Ettl
Kath. Familienwerk Österreichs
Spiegelgasse 3/2
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Ms. Bernice Fijneman
Permanent Mission of the Holy See
Theresianumgasse 33/4
A-1040 Wien
Austria

Ms. Karen Flowers
Seventh-Day Adventists
12561 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600
USA

Ms. Neda Forghani
Bahá'í International Community
Dr-Ludwig-Riegerstr. 37/3
A-2340 Mödling
Austria

Mr. George Forzi Ngu
Benevolent Community Education
P.O. Box 368
Buea, South West Province
Cameroun

Ms. Elisabeth Froschauer
IYF-NGO Secretariat
An der Hülben 1/15
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Ms. Sabine Führer
IYF-NGO Secretariat
An der Hülben 1/15
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Ms. Salma Galal
Health & Environmental Education Ass.
23, Sh. Abdel Kader el-Maghrebi
Heliopolis, Cairo
Egypt

Ms. Ottilie Gambrill
ACWW
Peter-Roseggerg. 9
A-3400 Klosterneuburg
Austria

Ms. Lily Gauci
ICCFM
Antemma, Parish Street
Mellieha, SPB 14
Malta

Mr. Toni Gauci
ICCFM
Antemma, Parish Street
Mellieha, SPB 14
Malta

Mr. Amr Ghaleb
Subprogramme on Family
UNDPCSD, Room DC2-1302
New York, NY 10017
USA

Mr. Michael Girardi
World Vision Österreich
Engelsbergg. 4
A-1030 Wien
Austria

Ms. Amalia Gómez Gómez
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Calle José Abascal, 39
E-28071 Madrid
Spain

Ms. Rosalind Harris
International Social Service
130 E 67th Street
New York, NY 10021
USA

Ms. Eleonore Hauer-Rona
International Council of Women
P.O. Box 115
A-1235 Wien
Austria

Ms. Marie-Emmanuelle Helleputte
Femmes Actives au Foyer
Ave. Père Damien 76
B-1150 Brussels
Belgium

Mr. Jost Herzog
Zentralstelle für Familienfragen
Effingerstr. 33
CH-3003 Bern
Switzerland

Ms. Ursula Hillbrand
European Commission, Directorate V
Rue Joseph II 27, Office 0/240
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Mr. Werner Höffinger
Catholic Family Association Austria
Klosterstr. 7
A-4010 Linz
Austria

Ms. Brigitte Höger
Scripture Union
Reisenbauerring 5/5/4
A-2351 Wr. Neudorf
Austria

Ms. Eveline Hönigsperger
BMUJF
Franz-Josefs-Kai 51
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Ms. Sigrid Hopf
ICP
Begonienstr. 10
D-80939 München
Germany

Ms. Faith D. Innerarity
Ministry of Labour and Social Security
14, National Heroes Circle
Kingston
Jamaica, West Indies

Ms. Monika Jaeckel
GROOTS, Deutsches Jugendinstitut
Friedensstr. 30
D-81543 München
Germany

Ms. Maria Janí
Organizatia Vecinatatea
Str. Selimber nr. 2/2
RO-4300 Tirgu Mures
Romania

Mr. Olaf Kapella
Österr. Institut für Familienforschung
Gonzagag. 19/8
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Ms. Christa Käsmayer
Institut für Ehe und Familie
Spiegelg. 3
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Mr. Stephen Richard Katongole
Makerere College School
P.O. Box 16391
Kampala
Uganda

Ms. Annemarie Kerschbaumer
Int'l Confederation of Midwives
Wallensteinstr. 65
A-1200 Wien
Austria

Ms. Djrudja Kisin
Women Help Women
Str. Nusiceva 1
YUG-Belgrade
Yugoslavia

Ms. Edith Krebs
ICFTU
Pokornygasse 31/19
A-1190 Wien
Austria

Mr. Tone Kunstelj
Federal Marriage Preparation Centre
Poklukarjeva 14
SLO-61000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Ms. Linna Kuts
DUMF
Kotsjubinsky str. 39-A/7
250000 Chernigov
Ukraine

Fürst Nikolai Georgi Lange
Kaiserhaus Russland
Industriestr. 3
D-63839 Kleinwallstadt
Germany

Ms. Terézia Lenczová
Research Inst. of Labour, Social Affairs
Spitálska 6
SK-81241 Bratislava
Slovakia

Ms. Erika Leonhardsberger
Soroptimist International
Salzgrieß 10
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Ms. Christine Leopold
Int'l Kolping Society
Paulanerg. 11
A-1040 Wien
Austria

Ms. Ana Isabel Libano Monteiro
Direccao Geral da Accao Social
Praça de Londres 2, 5°
P-1091 Lisboa
Portugal

Ms. Lizzie Lichtenberg
EUW
Kirkeltevej 21
DK-3450 Allerod
Denmark

Ms. Ann Mannen
Bahá'í International Community
Troelstvaweg 56
NL-8917 Leeuwarden
The Netherlands

Ms. Eva Matt
Consumers' International
Linke Wienzeile 18
A-1060 Wien
Austria

Ms. Auguste Mayer
Zonta International
Arnoldg. 1/1/36
A-1210 Wien
Austria

Mr. James Michael
Queen May and Westfield College
Mile End Road
E1 4NS London
United Kingdom

Ms. Anneli Miettinen
Family Federation of Finland
P.O. Box 849
FIN-00101 Helsinki
Finland

Ms. Elisabeth Mikl
Focolare Movement
Rehab Hochegg
A-2840 Grimmenstein
Austria

Ms. Mira Miskulin
Suncokret
Kunticeve str. 4
Zagreb
Croatia

Mr. Antoni Monserrat
International Family Foundation
Jaime III, 18-4-B
E-07012 Palma de Mallorca
Spain

Ms. Maria Teresa Mogin
Ministry of Social Affairs, Child & Family
Calle José Abascal, 39
E-28071 Madrid
Spain

Mr. Leonids Mucenieks
Large Family Association
Zakusalas Krastmala 3-253
LV-1509 Riga
Latvia

Ms. Ludmila Nemcová
Cesky Svaz Zen - Ustredni Vybor
Panksá ulice 7
CZ-11153 Prague
Czech Republic

Ms. Françoise Nieuwenhuys
FIEP/IFPE
Josefsplatz 5/1
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Ms. Rose Nyobe
Defence for Children International
P.O. Box 14585
Yaoundé
Cameroun

Ms. Maria Orthofer
BMUJF
Franz-Josefs-Kai 51
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Ms. Daniela Ortiz
Hacer Familia
Hasenauerstr. 29
A-1180 Wien
Austria

Ms. Hilary Page
Soroptimist International
Ivy Cottage, Single St.
Berry's Green TN16 3AB Kent
United Kingdom

Mr. Peter Pitzinger
Familienreferat des Amtes der
NÖ Landesregierung
A-3109 St. Pölten
Austria

Ms. Alice Pitzinger-Ryba
Österr. Familienbund
Mariahilferstr. 24
A-1070 Wien
Austria

Ms. Annedore Plumpe
International Alliance of Women
Tiefenbachwiesen 15
D-61350 Bad Homburg
Germany

Ms. Elisabeth Pomberger
Pax Romana ICMICA-IMSC
Ramperstorfferg. 12/1/14
A-1050 Wien
Austria

Ms. Silvia Porubänová
Bratislava International Council
Drotárska cesta 46
SK-81104 Bratislava
Slovac Republic

Ms. Brigitte Pross
International Alliance of Women
Höhenstr. 22
D-61476 Kronberg
Germany

Mr. George Puthuppally
Special Assistant
UNOV, P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Wien
Austria

Ms. Augustine Quashigah
GROOTS
P.O. Box 1562
Accra
Ghana

Ms. Christina Quijano-Caballero
WLRA
Jacquingasse 39/8
A-1030 Wien
Austria

Ms. Teresa Rey Barreiro-Meiro
Dirección General de la Familia
Edificio Admin. San Cayetano, s/n
E-15704 Santiago de Compostela
Spain

Ms. Ceridwen Roberts
Family Policy Studies Centre
231 Baker Street
London NW1 6XE
United Kingdom

Ms. Roserillan S. Robidillo
ICCB - Asia
1518 Leon Guinto St.
Ermita, Manila
The Philippines

Mr. Eugene Rolfe
International Family Policy Forum
380 Saint-Antoine Str. West, Suite 3200
Montréal, Québec H2Y 3X7
Canada

Mr. Heribert Rollik
Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71
D-53113 Bonn
Germany

Ms. Hilde Rosenmayr
WUCWO
Magdalenenstr. 21/27
A-1060 Wien
Austria

Mr. Gerhard Sailer
BM für Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Ballhausplatz 2
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Ms. Rosina Santa Olalla
PRODEFA
Av. Baviera, 8
E-28028 Madrid
Spain

Ms. Viloo Sattler
NGO Forum on Families India
Kochgasse 8/6
A-1080 Wien
Austria

Mr. Helmuth Schattovits
Austrian Institute for Family Research
Gonzagagasse 19/8
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Mr. Rupert Schildböck
World Organization of the Scout Movement
Billrothstr. 49/9
A-1190 Wien
Austria

Ms. Adelheid Schimak
IFUW
Pfeilgasse 9-11/61
A-1080 Wien
Austria

Mr. Michele Schivo
Murialdi Association
UNOV, P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna
Austria

Ms. Dimitra Schönegger
IRTAC
Hammerschmidtg. 14
A-1190 Wien
Austria

Ms. Emmy Schwarzl
EUW
Lichtenfelsgasse 7
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Ms. Ines Schweitzer
International Inner Wheel
Göttwergerstr. 135
D-94032 Passau
Germany

Ms. Agathe Sering
Coordination Office for Family Affairs
Celsiusstr. 112
D-53125 Bonn
Germany

Mr. Winston Sims
Society for Int'l Development
Sickenberggasse 7/16
A-1190 Wien
Austria

Mr. Luc de Smet
Bond Van Grote en Van Jonge Gezinnen
Troonstraat 125
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium

Ms. Rosetta Spalt
Italian Centre for Solidarity
Annagasse 8
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Ms. Ilse Spritzendorfer
IFBPW
Unterer Markt 11
A-3631 Ottenschlag
Austria

Ms. Eve Sullivan
Parents' Forum Inc.
929 Mass. Ave. 01
Cambridge, MA 02139
USA

Ms. Sirpa Taskinen
STAKES
P.O. Box 220
FIN-00531 Helsinki
Finland

Ms. Andrée Thomanek
AIC
Albertgasse 19/14
A-1080 Wien
Austria

Ms. Regine Toifl-Stulz
SOS-Kinderdorf International
Billrothstr. 22
A-1190 Wien
Austria

Mr. Stanislav Trnovec
Club of Large Families
Lichardova 16
SK-81103 Bratislava
Slovac Republic

Mr. Reid Trulson
Baptist World Alliance
Ochsnerpromenade 12
A-3400 Klosterneuburg
Austria

Ms. Monica Tupay
IFHE
Schweizertalstr. 41/19
A-1130 Wien
Austria

Ms. Helgard Ulshoefer
VAMV
Celsiusstr. 112
D-53125 Bonn
Germany

Ms. Zuzana Vranová
Bratislava International Council
Drotárska cesta 46
SK-81104 Bratislava
Slovac Republic

Ms. Sidiga Washi
Ahfad University for Women
P.O. Box 167
Omdurman
Sudan

Ms. Agnete Weigl
ACWW
Laudongasse 60
A-1080 Wien
Austria

Ms. Margaret Williams
EUW
19A, Paveley Drive
London SWII 3TP
United Kingdom

Ms. Erika Winkler
BMUJF
Franz-Josefs-Kai 51
A-1010 Wien
Austria

Mr. Helmut Wintersberger
European Centre for Social Welfare Policy
Berggasse 17
A-1090 Wien
Austria

Ms. C. Witters-Tijmensen
ACWW
Heerstraat 1
NL-6285 AN Epen
The Netherlands

Mr. Cevdet Yasaroglu
Prime Ministry Family Research Institute
Mesrutiyet Street 19
TR-06100 Ankara
Turkey

Ms. Gabriela Zamora
Hacer Familia
Apdo 1309-2050
San José
Costa Rica

Ms. Maria Zimková
Grassland and Mountain Agriculture...
Mládeznicka 36
SK-97421 Banská Bystrica
Slovac Republic

Ms. Alina Zvinkliene
Lithuanian Ethics Association
Seskinés 63/5
LTU-2010 Vilnius
Lithuania

# LIST OF SPONSORS

The Vienna NGO Committee on the Family wishes to express its sincerest thanks to the Sponsors who enabled the Committee to organize this Seminar which will, hopefully, lead to the Implementation of many Family-Specific Recommendations of the Global Conferences of the 1990s:

**Ministry for Environment, Youth and Family Affairs, Austria**

**Ministerio de Trabajo y de Asuntos Sociales, Spain**

**European Commission**
**Directorate General V for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs**

Social Europe

**United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities**

**City of Vienna**

**Government of the Balearic Islands, Spain**

**Fürstentum Liechtenstein, Amt für Soziale Dienste**

**Private Donors**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Vienna NGO Committee on the Family wishes to express its sincerest thanks to **ROSALIND W. HARRIS** for preparing this Report of the 6th International Seminar.

Gratitude also goes to **HILDE ROSENMAYR** and **MONICA TUPAY** for finalizing the Recommendations for Implementation.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE